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NECC Observer

No. Essex Community College, Haverhill & Lawrence, Mass.

Vol. 56, No. 5
April 1,
1998
Wednesday

19 Sports

Outfielder isn't
your everyday
ball player



9 Impulse

Students try to
escape the web
of debt



Tuition, fees may drop again in fall

◆ If state Legislature
approves proposal,
students will pay less
next semester

By DANNY GOODWIN
Editor

The state board of higher education has recommended a larger budget for community colleges, which means students may have tuition reduced for the second straight year.

But students will have to wait until the state Legislature passes the proposal before they can start spending that extra money.

Tuition and fees could drop to \$79 per credit, a savings of \$60 yearly for full-time students. The board of higher education bases its tuition figures on students who take 30 credit hours.

The drop would be a result of a \$1.4 million budget increase. Hartleb said it

looks as though the Legislature is serious about lowering the costs of college for students.

"We won't make it down to \$2,000 [per year] this year, but if the trend continues for the next few years, we might," he said. Ultimately, he said a reasonable price for full-time students to pay would be about \$67 per credit hour.

He said part of the extra \$1.4 million will be used for salaries and to buy needed equipment.

Any reduction will be attached to the speed of its approval, enrollment and NECC's budget, Hartleb said.

The costs must also be approved by NECC's board of trustees, who will also determine the fees, which are controlled by individual campuses, not the board of higher education, said Ernie Greenslade, director of public relations.

"It would be scary to announce a lowering of tuition and set a budget and then find out we don't have enough money to run," Hartleb said.



Doug Farmer photo

SPENDING WISELY? State Senator David Magnani, Board of Higher Education Chancellor Stanley Koplik, and BOHE Vice Chancellor Jack Warner discuss the effects of technology at campuses across the state.

Board looks at high tech

◆ Warns that colleges must have a specific plan
for using technology, rather than haphazardly
adding computers without vision for its use

By DOUG FARMER
News Editor

The state must be willing to spend \$35 million to upgrade computer facilities, networking, and instruction at public college campuses across the state, according to a report compiled by the firm of Coopers and Lybrand.

The report was discussed at a recent board of higher education meeting at NECC's Haverhill campus.

"The funds are there, and \$5 million

of it has already been spent to outfit college campuses with fiber optics," said Jack Warner, board vice chancellor. "All that remains now is for the state to free up the rest of the necessary money from a bond issue for capital expenditure."

He said \$35 million is available.

The report urges the money to be spent in four major areas at state colleges:

- ✓ Networking (\$10.5 million projected)
- ✓ Library resources (\$4.5 million)

◆ See BOARD, page 4

A license to drink

◆ Board of higher
education member urges
19-year-old students be
allowed to buy alcohol

By DANNY GOODWIN
Editor

God once told Adam not to eat from a forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden. Ever since, people have been attracted to forbidden fruit.

In college, this forbidden fruit, for some under 21, is alcohol. Aaron Spencer, a member of the state board of higher education, wonders if it is right to make alcohol forbidden to traditionally-aged college students.

He is proposing that, just like students get a driver's license, students should get a drinking license — after an education program and screening. Spencer hopes his idea will open a discussion about how alcohol is viewed in this country.

"When you're 18 you can be sent to Bosnia... marry, have as many children as you want, but you cannot have beer until you're 21," Spencer said. "It is made attractive by restricting it. Overseas it's no big deal. In Denmark, porno is all over the place

and nobody thinks twice about it."

He said the country does not have a solution for underage drinking because it is only reacting to a problem instead of addressing it.

"I'm not in favor of people under 21 drinking, getting pregnant or driving irresponsibly. The fact is they are drinking and every approach we take toward them is punishment," Spencer said.

Spencer said drinking laws are based on age instead of ability to handle a responsibility. He said drinking is a big responsibility not everyone can handle.

"It's the human psyche. If a grandfather wants grandchildren to eat, what's the best way to get them to eat something they don't want to eat? Tell the children not to eat it," he said.

The best way to start a program like this is to tie it to a driver's license since driving and drinking alcohol are two things teens want to do, Spencer said.

"Being 21 does not mean they are capable of drinking responsibly," Spencer said. "To drive, you have to go out, learn how to drive and pass a test and subscribe to rules. Both are chronologically controlled, but one requires ability."

He said if 19 year olds want to drink, they

◆ See LICENSE, page 4

Paper 'crowned' in NY

◆ Observer named one of
top 7 student newspapers
in the country

By DANNY GOODWIN
Editor

Despite facing off against colleges with bigger populations than some towns, the NECC Observer was recently named one of the top seven student newspapers in the country.

The paper won a Gold Crown Award at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Awards, held annually in New York City.

The biweekly newspaper has taken home the Gold Crown two times before — in '95 and '92. In the past two years, the Observer has won the Silver Crown in '96 and '97, CSPA's second highest award.

Judges of the Crown awards based their decisions on writing, editing design and production of a superlative publication. Of the 426 newspapers that entered the competition, seven won gold crowns, the top 1 percent.

In this competition, there is no differentiation between two-year and four-year colleges. There is also no distinction made between daily, weekly and biweekly.

◆ See PAPER, page 4

The arts center should be here

◆ *Haverhill doesn't need it more than NECC does*

There is only one way NECC can prove it is dedicated to its students: by providing the appropriate facilities and technology whenever the need arises.

Right now, lawmakers are stressing the importance of getting the center built to benefit Haverhill and the Merrimack Valley.

Whatever influences the final decision should be based on what the fine arts program needs. And right now, it is space.

The Top Notch players are cramped for space, the music club practices in a lecture hall and the Still Point dancers practice wherever they can. Art

Editorials

students have the fairly deserted faculty hallway on the third floor of the Spurk Building to display their designs.

Let's not force people in the fine arts program to drive into the city to practice or perform when NECC is in an ideal location. The arts center would not be too far away from the student center and the sport and fitness center in a little used parking lot.

Sure, it would be nice to get the center built sooner, but NECC should think long term. President David Hartleb said this center is not being built to help the college financially.

NECC has plenty of parking lots and it is located right off of Interstate 495. The city could offer nothing more attractive.

Don't students have a right to know?

◆ *Evaluations of faculty should be public information*

Student evaluations should be regularly published. If the college wants to continue looking at students as customers, this is the only way those customers can influence the product.

Students are paying to be educated, and they should get the best education possible. These "customers" should have as equal an impact on those who provide it.

At the board of higher education meeting over spring break, Chairman James Carlin said the results of student evaluations of their professors should be published at the end of each semester.

Every semester is probably too much, but every two years there should be some evaluation available. Professors should be held accountable for their performance over time.

Many say personal learning styles and feelings make the evaluations somewhat unreliable. A good professor is a good professor.

One concern is that professors might become obsessed with popularity at the expense of content. This could already be happening. This would not affect their job any more than the current 20 percent. More people would just know the results.

Some say students don't take evaluations seriously. Maybe it's because they really have no impact. Leave it up to students to decide who teaches them.



Talk shows: Demoralizing and often stupid, but sometimes flat-out entertaining

Since I didn't make any plans to sail the Caribbean, I decided to spend Spring Break catching up on school work, spending quality time with my kids, and much-needed rest.

I felt pride when my peers said, "Well, good for you, Robin," about my plans. But I knew that my week wouldn't turn out that way.

I did some school work, though hardly any. As for rest, I didn't get any.

After getting the children off to school, I found it almost impossible to go back to sleep. So, I decided to see what was on television.

I discovered a much-loved talk show that I watched regularly before giving it up. I was a talk show addict who had been clean for five months.



ROBIN NELSON

For five days straight I watched hair being pulled, chairs flung across the stage, and pregnant women engaged in fights.

I cheered, laughed, and even rooted for my favorite contender. I ran to the phone to call my girlfriends to fill them in. And when no one was home, I got mad at them for having a life.

I discovered another episode of

this talk show came on at noon. I thought of things to do to pass the two-hour gap.

I sat for hours in front of the tube, so there's now a permanent dent in my couch because of it, and no Twinkie cupcakes are left.

When Friday rolled around, I realized that I had wasted my Spring Break on garbage.

The shows brought out the worse in me. I was getting joy out of someone else's misfortune because it made my problems seem small.

The sad thing is these people are our sisters, brothers, mothers, and neighborhoods, so everyone can relate to certain situations in the programs whether or not they want to admit it.

I'll have to try once again to give up talk shows.

ROAMING REPORTER

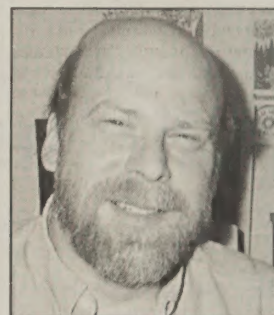
Arts center: on campus or in downtown Haverhill?



Dave Charest, theater/journalism
"I think it would be better on campus. I like to have everything right here."



Jessica Lattime, liberal arts
"I think it would be a great investment for the school here. It is an educational facility and will draw more people here."



Michael Kolotila, professor
"On campus. The college should be a center of cultural activity in the community."



Antoinette Agruso, general studies
"They should have it here. All of the fine arts students are here, and it would give them exposure."



Debbie Blake, general studies
"I think they should definitely have it here. It would give great exposure not only to the students, but also to the school."



Susan Dow, administration
"Here. It will attract more people here because it is away from the downtown."
Michael J. LaBella photos

NECC OBSERVER

Award-Winning Student Newspaper at Northern Essex Community College

Elliott Way, Haverhill Mass. 01830
Editors: (978) 556-3640
Newsroom: (978) 556-3633
Advertising: (978) 556-3634
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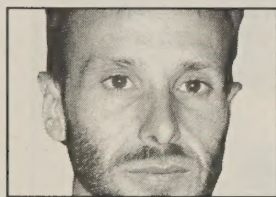
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National Pacemaker
Winner, Fall 1997
Columbia Scholastic
Press Association
Gold Crown Award,
Spring 1998

Printed on recycled paper by Seacoast Newspapers.
Photo support by Haverhill Photo, Inc.

Uncovering a 'cheesey' conspiracy



MARK BEHAN

◆ 'Hard news' tip leads to fame and fortune

Phone rings. Answering machine picks up: "Hello, you have reached the conspiracy theory tip hotline. If you've been involved in a right-wing conspiracy or attended kindergarten with Monica Lewinsky, please press one."

"If you listen to Rush Limbaugh or have appeared on the Jerry Springer show, please press two."

"If you're sitting on a hot conspiracy tip and want to help a fledgling columnist become rich and famous, please press 3."

Three.

"Yo scoop, it's Weasel. I've got the mother of all tips," says the voice on the other end.

"Listen, Weasel, this better be hot, I'm a very busy man," I said, slightly annoyed that he was interrupting the Jerry Springer show. "I don't want another cockamamie Internet conspiracy theory like last time."

"Scoop, this is hot. We're talking five-alarm chili, Sports-Illustrated-swimsuit-issue hot," Weasel shouted excitedly. "We're talking Pulitzer-Prize-for-investigative-reporting hot."

"Wow, a Pulitzer Prize!"

I paused momentarily—speechless. A chill shot up my spine. It was as though I was dreaming, yet still awake. Daydreaming. That's it, I must have been daydreaming. I envisioned myself walking proudly to the podium, in a real spiffy-looking suit, to accept my Pulitzer Prize.

I saw myself carrying my acceptance speech in my right hand and my crumpled tie in my left, as I approached the podium. Thinking to myself, "If only I had attended Catholic school, I'd know how to tie a tie by now."

I pictured myself shaking the hand of the person presenting me

my Pulitzer Prize. I'd whisper sheepishly in his ear, "Will you tie my tie for me, before they take my picture?"

"Yo scoop, are you okay?" Weasel asked.

"Oh yeah, I was just daydreaming or something," I said, still a bit dazed. "Do ya' really think I can win a Pulitzer Prize?"

"Yeah, well, maybe with some luck or a huge bribe to the Pulitzer committee. If not, you'll at least win a certificate at NECC's writing awards in May," Weasel said.

"Listen, Weasel, I'm feeling heat from my editors and publisher here at the Observer. They're expecting me—as a serious journalist—to break hard news stories. They want the Asian market crisis, El Nino, and the planning process, yada, yada, yada."

"No more funny, ha-ha business, no more shtick, no more railing against smokers or skewering President Hartleb like a shish kabob. The next Observer's coming off the press April 1. So this 'hot conspiracy tip' of yours better be legit, because I've got a wife and kid and hamster at home to put food on the table for."

There was a long pause at the other end of the phone. I faintly made out a buzzing sound; it sounded like snoring.

"Weasel, wake up!" I screamed. "I'm sorry scoop, you were saying something about being a serious journalist and I just started dozing," Weasel explained.

"Hold on Weasel, I just got another call," I said. "Conspiracy tip hotline, go ahead..."

"I'm a student at NECC's Lawrence campus. While I was sitting in the cafe the other morning, I overheard CIA agents plotting an attack on the Lawrence campus by space aliens and the NECC Observer staff," said the unidentified student.

"Interesting. Space aliens? Yeah, thanks for the tip," I said sarcastically.

"Boy, Weasel. Some people will say anything to ensure the Observer covers the Lawrence campus. Now give me the darn conspiracy tip, will ya!"

"There's a vast cheese conspiracy going on at the big-chain supermarket in town," Weasel said.

"A cheese conspiracy?" I belated. "Weasel, you've been watching too many Oliver Stone movies and listening to Hillary Clinton."

"The deli workers are giving free slices of cheese to whiny, bratty kids in shopping carts at the deli," Weasel answered sternly.

"Weasel, this is more preposterous than the space aliens tip. Are these kids showing up by themselves in shopping carts at local supermarkets just for free cheese?" I asked befuddled.

"No, Scoop, they're with their parents waiting for hours in the deli line. It's like Russia, except everyone's indoors and they give out numbers," Weasel said. "The travesty is these innocent kids will get hooked on cheese and turn

into cheeseheads when they grow up."

"I smell a rat or worse—a stinky piece of Limburger cheese!" I said. "Hold on, Weasel. Another call. Conspiracy tip hotline..."

"Elvis lives! He performed in Jitters the other day at lunch time. He's adorable, even though he's as fat as a Sumo wrestler. He was eating a triple-decker peanut butter and bacon sandwich and singing 'Hounddog' at the same time. What a talent! The student senate said he's coming back next month if he can still fit through the door," the unidentified caller said.

"Thanks," I said. "Weasel, there must be a full moon, continue on about the cheese conspiracy."

"The big cheese companies are targeting the youth of America, under the guise of keeping these kids from having temper tantrums in the deli line," Weasel said. "Big cheese is responsible for half the population in this country being as fat as Mo Vaughn."

"Do you think the big cheese

companies are conspiring with other companies around the country?" I asked.

"Yes, big cheese lobbyists are in cahoots with hundreds of businesses across the country. Weight Watchers, fitness centers, and overeaters anonymous groups have made millions off fat people addicted to cheese. They even have the American Medical Association (AMA) in their back pocket."

"The AMA?" I asked.

"Yes, the AMA. Just a couple of years ago it announced the discovery of a fat gene. What a farce! Millions of obese cheeseheads

across the country were about to file lawsuits against big cheese companies. Now they're out of luck. It's cheese causing these people to look like Porky Pig, not any fat gene."

"Hold on Weasel, I've got another call coming in. Conspiracy tip hotline..."

"Yeah, I discovered an encoded message in the NECC Observer," the unidentified caller said.

"Fascinating, can you decipher the message?" I asked inquisitively.

"Yeah. If you read the 17th letter of every other page, it spells out APRIL FOOLS!"



"NECC helped me fulfill my dreams"



I've wanted to be a lawyer since I was five. I started my education at a four-year college, but felt lost there. NECC's Paralegal Program made me feel wanted, prepared me well and was a great stepping stone to continuing my education. Now I'm getting my law degree at Suffolk Law School, working at a Boston law firm and looking forward to the day when I open my own practice in the Merrimack Valley. NECC gave me the self-confidence and determination I needed to succeed!

NECC Grad Lorraine Mojica of Lawrence Student, Suffolk Law School

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Correction

The Observer is committed to getting it right. If you find errors, please call the editors at ext. 3640 and let us know.

Due to a reporter's error in the last issue, a member of security was misidentified in a caption. His name is Frankie St. John.

How to contact us:

Please send your letters or story ideas to our campus newsroom: The Observer, Elliott Way, Haverhill, Mass. 01830. Letters must be typed and under 300 words. We reserved the right to edit for libel, taste, space and clarity. Include your name, major and phone number for verification. Your phone number won't be published. You can also send e-mail to us at observer@necc.mass.edu

Board pushes high tech

♦ continued from page 1

- ✓ Instructional assistance (\$950,000)
- ✓ Administrative systems (\$12.4 million)

Increased computerization will allow colleges to pool information more effectively.

"A virtual digital library comprised of shared data bases is accessible from all campus networks," the report said. "Regional educational technology centers maintain cutting-edge capabilities and support campus-based efforts, while serving as clearinghouses for technology enhanced learning resources developed throughout the system."

Warner said it is one thing to provide technology, but another to use it effectively.

"It is the state's job to provide the hardware, and it is the college's job to utilize it as best fits its situation," said state senator David Magnani, chairman of the senate committee on science and technology. "A college's mission must drive the technology, not the other way around."

One place the latest in technology could be applied is the library, according to the report.

"Libraries are confronting the challenge of continuing to collect printed materials while addressing the expanding responsibility for accessing digital resources as well as for providing technology instruction," it said.

Since students go to the library as a regular part of the school day, it could conceivably expose a large portion of the population to the latest innovations.

Both Magnani and Warner see professional development as a key part of the state's overall plan.

"If training is inadequate, we could run

the risk of younger, more technically adept faculty and staff using the computer systems while the untrained faculty and staff remain isolated from it," Magnani said.

"Teachers and students should definitely be well-trained in the latest technology, so valuable class time is not spent just learning the system, rather than teaching it," Warner said.

Other business at the meeting included a bond refinancing which would lower interest rates for the repayment of capital expenditures at Middlesex Community College, North Shore Community College and Berkshire Community College.

In 1992, the Massachusetts Health and Educational Facilities Authority issued \$17.4 million in bonds for these institutions at 7.02 percent interest. \$16.1 million remains to be paid.

The board also requested \$1.5 million in funding for 1999 for dual enrollment programs at state colleges. These programs allow high school students to earn college credit before graduating.

According to a memo from the Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy committee, there was not enough money during the current academic year for all interested students to participate.

Also at the meeting, James Carlin, the board's chairman, reiterated that colleges should clarify their mission statements.

"When we collected the various mission statements, we discovered that if the names of the schools were taken out, it was difficult to differentiate between one school and the next," he said. "Schools have to define their purposes more effectively for their communities."

President David Hartleb announced his intention to do so at a recent NECC board of trustees meeting.

License for alcohol?

♦ continued from page 1

should be allowed to, but only after being screened physically, mentally and intellectually, and tested. He said the police and the highway safety program could teach them about responsible drinking, what alcohol does to the body and what accidents look like.

Nita Lamborghini, assistant dean of college life and healthy living, said part of the reason alcohol is such a large problem with younger students is because of what they see on television and hear on the radio. She said alcohol is treated differently in other countries, mainly because America is unique in the way alcohol is viewed.

"Young people are greatly influenced by media," she said. "Beer is portrayed as American. If you drink you're sexy, you're strong, exciting, or successful. The culture is very different here than in other societies. Would the courses offset the impact of culture being sent out in the media?"

The experimental program would be set up on a state college campus. Between 500 and 1,000 students would get a chance to take courses about the dangers and responsibility of drinking.

Once students completed the courses, they would be issued a license to buy alcohol, Spencer said.

He said it is better to have any kind of program rather than none at all.

Spencer said by tying driving to alcohol, the student would lose both licenses if he or she violates laws for either privilege.

Spencer guessed that if 8,000 underage students attended a college, probably 5,900 would show up to apply.

"Alcohol education should be considered regardless. Give it a try. If the kids blow it, they blow it for everyone," he said.

He said people accept sex education because they realize they are not going to keep people out of the back seat.

"Because the preachers at one time were in the back seat," Spencer said.

A few obstacles he would face include getting the Legislature to pass a law exempting the test group from existing drinking age laws or federal highway money would be lost.

"They will rise to your level; if you treat them with maturity, you will get a re-



sponse," Spencer said.

Lamborghini wondered if the idea would result in a higher number of people drinking, but perhaps there would be more control to it.

The board of higher education has passed rules prohibiting alcohol on campuses, but the problem is not going away.

Part of what she does is to show alternatives to drinking, to allow student to "have fun without alcohol."

She does this by providing information about the effects alcohol has on people through workshops, and having facts available through the health services office.

"Students lives are more unstable than they used to be," Lamborghini said. "There is a definite link between alcohol and performance in college."

Here is a recent timeline of problems linked to alcohol at college campuses, compiled from UWIRE reports:

April 1994: A Bloomburg University student, 21, died after a party from alcohol poisoning, a blood alcohol level of 0.40.

Spring 1995: Five students die at Chapel Hill University after a fire breaks out in a fraternity house where a drinking party is taking place.

June 1995: A University of Texas at Austin sophomore drowned in the Colorado River after drinking at a fraternity picnic.

September 1995: A University of Iowa

Top billing



File photo

CORONATION: Doug Farmer, Danny Goodwin, and Todd Hart accept the Gold Crown award in New York City over spring break.

Paper takes Crown Award

♦ continued from page 1

Adviser Joseph T. LeBlanc said this benefited the Observer.

"In a way it gives us an advantage because the staff can get the paper closer to perfection than if we were a daily," LeBlanc said. "But in the end we have a core group who puts in a lot of time."

Staff members and LeBlanc credit a combination of talent and dedication as the guiding force behind the numerous awards the newspaper has picked up in the '90s.

Many staff members credited LeBlanc as the reason behind winning many awards.

"Joe knows what it takes to create an award-winning paper," said Camille Ducey, Impulse editor. "With his expertise, he guides us to award-winning material."

Todd Hart, sports editor, said LeBlanc has had a big influence on his writing as well.

"When I was in Journalism I class, I wasn't sure of myself, and he silenced some of my doubts," Hart said. "He makes sure you have everything you need to become a good writer."

He said there is some pressure on him to maintain a certain level of writing and continue the Observer's legacy.

"I want to make the sports section better than the week before," Hart said. "I don't want to be known as someone who just did sports, but who was a key contributor to the paper."

He said the biggest strength the paper has going for it is the number of talented writers, both in writing and photography.

"Our strength is the look of the paper and the content," said Doug Farmer, news editor. "A lot of other papers have short, little articles while the Observer gets more in-depth and detailed."

He said the award-winning past has been a benefit to current students.

"We have a strong foundation, and we're not afraid to go off in new directions where other papers might be afraid to go," Farmer said.

Chester Hawrylcw, assistant dean of humanities and communications, said he is thrilled by the award for the college

and those involved on staff. He said he is also pleased that the Observer can compete against Big-10 colleges such as Indiana University, and the University of Michigan.

"They've been at it a lot longer than we have," Hawrylcw said. "We've had dedicated students and a dedicated faculty adviser who have given so much more time than what is required. And it has created the greatest paper in the state, and one of the best in the country."

The six other college newspaper Gold Crown winners were: Indiana Daily Student, Indiana University; Oregon Daily Emerald, University of Oregon; The Ball State Daily News, Ball State University; The Daily Pennsylvanian, University of Pennsylvania; The Michigan Daily, University of Michigan; and The Oklahoma Daily, University of Oklahoma.

"We have a really strong paper, and it's great to be recognized," said Chris Blasdel, arts editor. "We beat out a bunch of four-year schools, which is an ego boost for a rinky dink Massachusetts community college."

LeBlanc said some of the things that set the Observer apart is its dedication to hard news and in-depth stories in the Impulse section.

"The staff has truly been at the forefront of news which is of national importance, such as campus crime being reported well and completely," he said. "Very few papers take on the administration as well. The staff takes it on when it needs to be taken on."

Mark Behan, opinion editor, said the staff is driven to continue reaching high standards.

"We take pride in our work. We have good variety and are not afraid to ruffle a few feathers," Behan said. "For a lot of students, this might be the only paper they read."

Michael LaBella, graphics editor, said the secret to the Observer's success is how well the staff works together as a team.

"Everyone works together. I've never worked in a group that works so well together," LaBella said. "No one tries to outdo anyone and it has been a unique experience to be a part of the staff."

freshman was found dead after inhaling vomit following a night of drinking, a blood alcohol level of 0.188.

Feb. 10, 1996: A Radford University student, 18, died from alcohol poisoning after attending two fraternity keg parties, a blood alcohol level of 0.31.

Feb. 24, 1996: After drinking heavily, a Radford University student, 21, died in a fraternity house fire, a blood alcohol content of 0.25.

April 1996: University of Wisconsin police cite 134 students for underage drinking and disorderly conduct at a fraternity house.

May 1996: A University of Maine student

died after falling from a Bowdoin College fraternity house roof during a party.

Aug. 30, 1996: A University of New Hampshire student, 18, fell from the roof of a fraternity house, a blood alcohol level of 0.18.

Nov. 9, 1996: A Frostburg State University student, 20, died from alcohol poisoning after consuming at least six beers and 12 shots of vodka in two hours at a party, a blood alcohol level of 0.34.

Aug. 26, 1997: A Louisiana State University student, 20, died of acute alcohol poisoning as a result of a fraternity drinking binge with a blood alcohol level of 0.588.

FITCHBURG STATE *The Leadership College*



UNDERGRADUATE DAY PROGRAMS

- Biology
- Business Administration
- Chemistry
- Clinical Lab Sciences
- Communications/Media
- Computer Information Systems
- Computer Science
- Early Childhood Education
- Earth Science
- Economics
- Elementary Education
- English
- General Studies
- Geography
- History
- Human Services
- Industrial Technology
- Mathematics
- Middle School Education
- Nursing
- Pre-Professional Programs
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Special Education
- Technology Education

UNDERGRADUATE EVENING PROGRAMS

- Business Administration
- Computer Science
- Computer Information Systems
- General Studies
- Occupational/Vocational Education

UNDERGRADUATE APPROVAL PROGRAMS

- Vocational Technical Teacher Approval Program

CERTIFICATES OF ADVANCED GRADUATE STUDIES

- Consultation and Peer Leadership
- Educational Leadership and Management
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Professional Staff Development

MASTER'S DEGREES

Master of Arts

- Biology
- English
- History

Master of Arts in Teaching

- Biology
- Earth Science
- English
- History
- Mathematics

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

- Accounting
- Management
- Human Resources Management

Master of Education

- Arts Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Educational Leadership and Management
- Elementary Education
- Middle School Education
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Arts center

Campus or downtown?

♦ *Lawmakers urge new center to be built; the question is where it will end up*

By DANNY GOODWIN
Editor

An arts center on which construction has been delayed for 30 years will have to wait a little longer until the college and the state decide where it will be most beneficial.

Local lawmakers said their first priority is to get the center built and have encouraged NECC to look at locations in Haverhill instead of building it on campus. But President David Hartleb may not be willing to put the center downtown to get the money for the project sooner.

State Rep. Brian Dempsey, D-Haverhill, said it will help convince the state to provide the money sooner if a site downtown is not ruled out, or even given serious consideration.

"The project is a regional asset, but it would have a dual impact if it was put downtown," Dempsey said. "It would benefit our restaurants and businesses. All of us are committed to securing the money, and this might be the most feasible solution."

Sen. James Jajuga, D-Methuen said other cities have received money from the state, while Haverhill has been neglected.

"Convention centers have been built in Boston, Worcester and Springfield. We got

left behind in the Merrimack Valley," Jajuga said.

He said he put in a request for the money to build the center last February, but the center was not a part of the board of higher education's five year spending plan.

He recently made a plea at the last board of higher education meeting, held on NECC's Haverhill campus, to get the money as quickly as possible since the board's list is updated and changed annually.

"There is a sales tax issue, an inequity we face because of New Hampshire that other cities don't face," Jajuga said. "For that reason we should get more attention."

He said the center would attract a number of people from the community. He said that the college's Still Point dancers should be able to perform in their own facility.

"You could have a whole host of events, let your imagination run wild," he said. "It would be a tremendous draw and enhance the region."

Parking and traffic issues are some problems which will need to be discussed.

"I just want it built," Jajuga said.

The center was part of the original plans for the campus, but during the original construction, there was not enough money to finish the job. Jajuga said the kind of money to finish the project has not been available until now.

The plan for the center would be to house the fine arts programs, music, theater and arts, as well as the Center for Business and Industry, Hartleb said.

If it is built on campus, the center would be built where a parking lot is now to the right of the student center, which would be

Playin' at Jitters



Todd Hart photo
ROCK AND COFFEE: Music club members perform in Jitters Cafe last week, providing students with a musical break between classes.

no loss because the lot is not used nearly to its capacity, he said.

"I have been encouraged to look at possible downtown locations, but I haven't heard what the advantages of putting it downtown would be," he said. "It would have to be a very convincing argument to make me want to build it off campus."

He said that building this theater would not be done for profit, but to benefit the Merrimack Valley's artists and performers, as well as the students and faculty at NECC.

Some possible locations Dempsey mentioned included Bailey Boulevard, near where the new police station is being built, and the Winchell Building, which is coming down.

"We see it as something to attract people. Why not have it in an area where after a show, they can walk down the street to a

local restaurant to eat or to a retail store to buy something," Dempsey said. "It could have a ripple effect to get people into downtown Haverhill."

He said students and faculty would be contributing to the city the same way.

He said the project is the first priority. The first obstacle to pass is the location.

"Downtown it would be a two for one shot," benefiting the city and the college at the same time, Dempsey said.

The problem Susan Sanders, Top Notch Players adviser, has with the Top Notch Theater is not performing, but lack of space.

"We use the same area to paint, to build, to practice and to have class," Sanders said.

She said the college's students could benefit from the fine arts building. However, she was opposed to the college putting the center downtown.

Scholarship applications due April 17

♦ *Many students miss out on financial aid due to lack of awareness*

By PAMELA DOHERTY
Staff Reporter

More than 80 types of scholarships are available to students, ranging from \$100 to \$1,500. Still, students are not applying for scholarships as much as they could be.

The financial aid office is trying to make more students aware of these opportunities by hanging posters around campus, mailing out applications to students and issuing a press release.

Getting enough applicants has been a problem Deborah Leduke, assistant dean of financial aid, would like to change. She has worked in the field for 16 years, and has been at NECC since 1994.

Of the 1,100 applications mailed last year, only 200 were received back. Many students were awarded multiple scholarships due to the lack of available applicants. Leduke would like to see more students benefit from the money.

The mailings go out to students who have a 2.7 or higher grade point average, and who have completed at least 12 credits. There are also scholarships available to students who do not fit that criteria.

Some scholarships are available to those with a GPA as low as 2.0. Scholarships are based on financial need, course of study, community service, athletics, disabilities, and other criteria.

Applications were mailed March 23 and are available to any student who did not receive one in the mail. Stop by the financial aid office and pick one up.

The deadline for filing applications is April 17. Leduke said the staff is available to help you through the process and to answer any questions.

"We make it clear what we expect from the students," Leduke said.

A short paper or essay and a reference letter should accompany the application. There is no cost to apply, all it takes is a little

time to fill out the forms.

Nancy Sabin, associate director of financial aid, has worked in the financial aid office since 1994 and at NECC for a number of years before that. She enjoys helping students pursue their education.

"It's a rewarding experience," Sabin said.

Some of the scholarships featured in this years application include:

Alumni Association Scholarship, \$500. Students with 30 or more credits and a GPA of 3.0 or above, who demonstrate service to the institution through involvement in campus activities, clubs and organizations.

Pamela Beaumont Scholarship for Working Mothers, \$1,500 per year. Financial need must be demonstrated, 12 credits earned and a 2.5 GPA.

John R. and Audrey O. Dimitry Scholarship, \$100. Must have obtained a GED and be a first or second semester student who demonstrates promise in the arts, athletics or community leadership and service.

Adonica Kelleher Memorial Scholarship, \$200 per year. Candidates should be students with a disability, who live in the Amesbury or Newburyport area, major in business and have excellent academic achievement.

James and Anna Rurak Memorial Scholarship, \$300. Student must demonstrate a firm and abiding commitment to public or community service and have completed at least 24 credits with a 2.0 GPA by this semester.

Also available in the financial aid office is a scholarship book, a guide to private-sector scholarships. Students may stop at the front desk and look through it.

For anyone logging on the Internet, two scholarship web sites are:

✓ www.collegenet.com (CollegeNet),
✓ www.heic.org (Boston Public Library Higher Education Info Center).

Both are posted in the hallway outside the financial aid office.

The office of financial aid is located on the second floor of B building across from the admissions office. Reach them at (978) 556-3650. Office hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

TAP program gives students a break on tuition, but . . .

♦ *Guidelines must be followed if discounts are to be realized*

By MICHAEL J. LABELLA
Graphics Editor

The Tuition Advantage Program which began last fall guarantees a 33 percent reduction in the cost of tuition at the University of Massachusetts or a state college for eligible students.

Although the potential savings is 33 percent, students must realize that it applies only to tuition. It does not apply to fees, or for live-in students, room and board.

Tuition for a year at U-Mass Lowell for example, is \$1,790. Fees add another \$2,722 to that bill. Applying the TAP discount of 33 percent results in a tuition savings of \$590.70, a reduction of 13.7 percent off the total of \$4,512 for one year as a commuter student. For a live in student, room and board is an additional \$4,570.

If you factor in room and board, a year at U-Lowell amounts to \$9,982. Subtracting the TAP discount of \$590.70 results in a savings of 5.9 percent off the total cost of \$9,982 for a live-in student.

At U-Mass Amherst, tuition of \$2004, room and board of \$4520 and fees of \$3325 bring a year's cost to approximately \$9,849. The TAP discount results in a \$661 savings there, for a total of 6.7 percent off the total for one year as a live-in student.

Eligibility for the TAP discount is dependent on getting good grades at a

Massachusetts community college.

A student must graduate with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 and participate in joint admissions in order to be eligible for the discount.

And if a student hopes to receive the discount for the second year at a four-year school, maintaining a 3.0 grade average is mandatory.

Careful preparation for the jump from a two-year to a four year Massachusetts college or university are a hallmark of the joint admissions program.

Paula Strangie, acting director of the academic advising center, said joint admissions helps maximize a student's ability to transfer credits. Students who successfully meet the requirements of this program have a reserved space waiting for them at their chosen Massachusetts state college or university.

"If you know which four-year school you want to go to, we can advise you as to the courses needed for that school," she said. "This helps minimize the chance of courses not being eligible for transfer."

"However, the joint admissions program only guarantees a student's admission to a Massachusetts four-year school of choice," she said. "Students must still go through the transfer credit evaluation process."

Strangie said people did not pay much attention to joint admissions prior to the advent of the TAP because it didn't impact them. "The TAP discount adds a new wrinkle to the program," she said.

Over 150 approved academic programs are available in community colleges, but not every program is eligible for joint admissions. Students should contact the academic advising center for additional information.

College announces spring dean's list

Paul Bevilacqua, acting dean of academic affairs, has announced the appointments of students to the dean's list for the fall of 1997.

Each semester, full-time students are named to the dean's list if they are enrolled in a degree program and have achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

These students have been named:

A

Ammon Adams, Renee Adams, Robert Ahern, Yesenia Alba, David Albert, Paula Alicea, Julie Allred, Ivanka Almonte, Carlos Alonzo, Anait Altunian, Teresa Alvarez, Frederick Andersen, Jr., Thomas Angold, Margarita Andreu, Carol Ansill, Brian Anthony, Janine Anzalota, Gazelle Aram, Teodora Arias, Jennifer Aroian, Maria Asprogiannis, Zeidan Ata, Jeremy Averill

B

Kevin Bacon, Jennifer Baez, Yrene Baez, Paul Bagdigian, Sarah Banville, Diane Barcomb, Roghieh Barghi, Lidiya Barkan, Kelly Barnes, Carmita Barrera, Nicole Barry, Kelly Barton, Jamie Bateman, Joselyne Batista, Carly Bedrosian, Gail Bedrosian, Barbara Begin, Julie Belanger, JoAnn Belzile, Ermete Benjamin, Kate Bennett, Kellie Bennett, Herman Benson, Joanne Benson, Noel Bergeron, Carol Bermami, Lesvia Bernard, Robin Berry, Benjamin Berthiaume, Pamela Bertrand, Farahilda Bet Rivazi, Kate Bialobrzewski, Bryan Bliss, Christopher Blasdel, Nicholas Boccelli, Robert Boisvert, Sharon Bolduc, Nicole Boucher, Emily Boudreau, Cynthia Boulter, Frank Bowinan, Kenley Bowser, William Boyer, Catherine Breslin, Doreen Bresnahan, Heidi Brooks, Alex Bruce, Kevin Buckley, Bethany Budnick, Victoria Bui, Lisa Burch, Candido Burdier, Jennifer Bussiere, Gorki Butten, Alana Buxton

C

Caroline Cain, Moises Camilo, Sean Campbell, Jarrod Canane, Roanne Caputo, Elizabeth Carder, Michael Caron, Minerva Carrasco, Luz Carrion, Carlos Cartagena, Kevin Carter, Lisa Casey, Nancy Castine, Annette Catapano, Matty Catlett, Jana Ceped, Vernon Chambers, Denis Champagne, Donna Charest, Jamie Charest, Zhi Chen, Aaron Cianelli, Dina Cifuentes, Stephanie Clayman, Dagny Collins, Noemi

Colon, Maryann Connolly, Britton Cooke, Laura Cormier, Wanda Correa, Michelle Costanzo, Christopher Cote, Lisa Cote, Cynthia Coughlin, Jaymebeth Couture, Monique Couture, Juliette Cowper, Theresa Cox, Michael Crafts, Kimberly Craib, Kim Crisham, Richard Cronin, Amanda Crowell, Maria Cruz, Tina Currier, Francisca Custodio, Kimberly Cutrone, Marianne Cyr

D

Mark DaGraca, Joshua Davidson, Brittney Davis, Erica Davis, Ethan Dawe, James Dawidowicz, Beverly DeForte, Scott Defusco, Jodi Dell, Tara Della Chiaie, Oliver Del Rosario, John Demeritt, Catherine DeMerjian, Alfred Denesowicz, James Dennis, Diane De Rosa, Evelyn DeRosa, MacKenzie Dewar, Janet DiBiao, Stephanie Dijanni, Milagros DiMaggio, Kristin DiRocco, Kimberly Divincenzo, Darren Doherty, Michele Doherty, Amy Donahue, Maryanne Donahue, Mark Donaldson, Darcie Donegan, Kevin Donovan, Julie Doucette, Sara Dow, Ellen Dowe, JoAnn Downs, Lisa Drouin, Leslie Dufresne

E, F

Linda Ealy, Britta Eberle, Joseph Egan, Nadine Elya, Amanda Emerson, Malysa Engel, David Eoll, Victor Espinosa, Henry Evans, Lea Fabre, Rolf Fabre, Mary-Elizabeth Fahey, Andrew Faucher, Jose Ferreira, Candice Ferrill, Lisa Finnegan, Cynthia Fisette, Brandie Thornton, Nora Fitzgibbon, Heather Flanders, Jessica Force, Jason Foulks, Heidi Fournier, Yvette Frazier, Jacob Fredette, Bethany Fritz, Amanda Frost

G

Patricia Gagne, Luis Gaibort, Michelle Galarza, Scott Gallant, Teodoro Galva, Scott Garand, Josue Garcia, Yolaoda Garcia, Yris Garcia, Robin Garipey, Orazio Garozzo, Christopher Gaudet, Melanie Gavriel, Georgia Georgacopoulos, Allen Gifford, Jasmine Gillingham, Jeremy Gillis, Pauline Goldsmith-Johnson, Mayra Gomez, Victor Gomez, John Gonsalves, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Santa Gonzalez, Victor Gonzalez, Michael Gorman, Ken Gostanian, Laurie Graham, Jason Grazio, Jillian Greenleaf, Bethany Greenwood, Daniel Griffin, Jeremy Grimaldi, James Grimes, Monika Grzejka, Yenny Guzman

H, I, J

Campus Watch

Transfer for part-time students set for April 16

Over three quarters of NECC students are working while attending college. Evening and weekend classes often fit their schedules best.

A transfer evening for these part-time students will be April 16 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Spurr lobby.

Representatives will be available to talk with evening and weekend students interested in transferring to a four-year college. Information on transfer policies and requirements will be available.

"This transfer night is designed to showcase the opportunities available to part-time or evening students who want to continue their education and earn a baccalaureate degree," said Janet O'Keefe, counselor.

Participating colleges include Bradford College, Franklin Pierce College, Lesley College, Merrimack College, New Hampshire College, Northeastern University, Rivier College, the University of Massa-

chusetts at Lowell and Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Student reports art work stolen

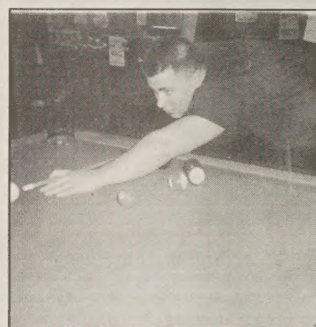
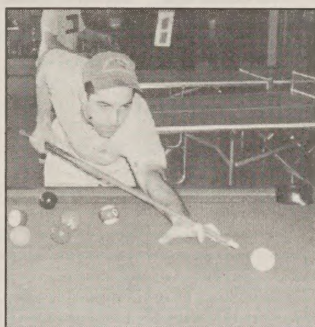
Art student Nancy Allard said one of her paintings was stolen from a bulletin board in the faculty corridor on the third floor of Spurr with other similar paintings. Security said it was the centerpiece of a group of paintings and was reported stolen March 12 at 3:30 p.m.

The art was done on a 14 by 17 inch drawing board in acrylics. It featured a face colored by green, gray, mauve and red. The face appeared split down the center, she said.

The right side of the face was a Native American with a paw print on his cheek and a headdress of an animal. The left side was done in prismatic/abstract style.

In other security news, Mary Roche, reading center coordinator, said her Toyota Camry was stolen March 11. She said she arrived at the campus at 9 a.m. and when she went out to the parking lot in the afternoon, the car was gone.

Winners



Michael J. LaBella photos
SHOWDOWN: Students Geoffrey Steverns and A.J. Mickee play to a two-way tie in an 8-ball pool tournament held recently in the sports and fitness center.

Corinne Hajj, Mindy Hall, Rebecca Harding, Sarah Hardy, Daniel Harnden, Ryan Harrisun, Sarah Hastings, Stephanie Hatem, Gail Hatherley, John Hayes, Jessica Higgins, Jacqueline Hirtle, Carrie Hitchcock, Anna Hoffmann, Margery Hollis, Veronica Holmes, Scott House, Damon Hunt, Brian Hutchinson, Tuong Vi Huynh, Elizabeth Imoski, Joan Ingersoll, Henry Jacknan III, Juan Jaquez, Benjamin Jenkins, Jill John, Angela Jope

K

Beverly Kalil, Kaoru Kameyama, Soo Kang, Cassandra Kannan, Melinda Kaplan, Nicole Kasimatis, Audrey Kasparian, William Kelloway, Michelle Kennedy, Wasim Khan, Khoa Khong, Federico Kidd, Timothy Kilroy, Soo Yeon Kim, Rebecca Kinney, Scott Kinney, Elizabeth Kippen, Lisa Kosmeh

L

Michael LaBella, Aimee Laflamme, Gregory Laflamme, Denise LaFrance, Francine Lahey, Corey Laird, Brandon Lambert, Danielle Lamond, Michael Lane, Henrietta Lantigua, Dana LaRocque, Bobbie Latch, Virginia Lavoie, Andrea Leal, Allison Leavis, Lisa Leblanc, Wayne Leduc, Mary Lemelin, Pablo Leon, Sean Leonard, Laura Leszczynski, Deborah Leveille, Priscilla Levesque, Matthew Liddy, Susan Litchfield, Maggie Liu, Chung-Heng Liu, Kristelle Lombard, Kathleen Longworth, Melissa Lord, Brooke Loughlin, Sean Love, Jessica Low, Linda Lugo-Israelsohn, Jonathan Luna

M

Rachel MacDonald, Carol MacDougall, Michelle Mack, Matthew Magee, Michelle Main, Joshua Maio, Serafim Makris, John Mambro, Susan Manning, Olga Marchenko, Melynda Marchi, Yadira Marquez, Kristy Marr, Donna Marrow, Stacey Marston, Ana Martinez, Tara Maynard, Michael Mazza, Mark Mazzaglia, Patricia McCormick, Melissa McDonald, Timothy McGovern, Erin McGravey, Terrance McKenzie, Jennifer McLaughlin, Jason McNeil, Carolyn Medeiros, Sarah Medelioskas, Adalina Mendez, Esther Mercedes, Nicole Merrill, Daniel Merz, William Miller, Maximo Minaya, Jodi Mitchell, Jennifer Moccia, Gudelia Molina, Christine Monto, Paula Moore, Alison Morando, Janice Morris, Mary Moschetto, Jessica Motsis, William Mueller, Heather Muniz, Karol Murillo, Catherine Murphy, James Murphy, Nathan Murray

N, O

Jennifer Navarro, Brian Neale, Jennifer Neale, Kimberly Nelson, Kien Ngo, Thang Nguyen, Thanh Nguyen, Miguel Nivar, Jennifer Nolan, Ingrid Nosko, Elizabeth Obram, Patricia O'Connor, Wanda Oka, Nicole Olenio, Darrel Ordoyne, Yoselin Ortega, Brenda Ortiz

P

Jared Palermo, Amanda Pancorbo, Frances Pappalardo, Gregory Paquette, Crispin Parisi, John Parlatore, Jamely Parra Mejia, Seth Patterson, Janice Pawlick, Natasha Payne, David Peddle, Janet Pedreira, John Pelerin, Blanchie Pelletier, Julie Pelletier, Raymond Perron, Adam Petralia, Thoy Pham, Julie Pierce, Altagracia Pierre, Rolka Pimentel, Ana Poello, Cruz Polanco, Justin Poore, Bridgett Poulin, Cynthia Proano, Bernard Provencher, Christopher Provencher, Heather Putney

Q, R

James Qualter, Sue Quinlan, Dolores Ramirez, Rhina Ramon, Christopher Raymond, Susan Raymond, Tara Reardon, Joshua Remy, Alexandra Reynoso, Liana Richenburg, Marc Richute, Jennifer Riddle, Arlene Riendeau, Beverly Rigolizzo, John Riley, Charlotte Ringleb, Telisa Ripberger, Ida Rivera, Maria Rivera, Venus Rivera, Melissa Rodgers, Santos Rodriguez, Arlis Roman, Carmen Rosano, Reina Rosano, Kathryn Rose, Donna Rousseau, Zoe Ryding

S

Jeffrey Saba, Esdras Sabino, Priscilla Sanborn, Laura Santos, Ikhlas Sarabi, Amy Scharn, Leah Schrempt, Susan Sciuto, Stanley Sellars, Emily Seluta, Amalfis Sepulveda, Alvino Serrano, Amy Sewade, Rosa Shephard, Natasha Short, MaryAnn Sialatis, Kelly Simone, Christopher Simons, Lubov Siniavski, Pavel Siniavski, Jayme Smith, James Snow III, Paul Soucy, Jr., Robert Spoon, Dante Stabile, John Stanton, Jr., Kern Steiber, Geoffrey Stevens, Kate Stevens, Robert Stokes, James St. Pierre, Sonya St Pierre, Keith Straw, Christopher Sullivan, Eric Sundmuist, Tracy-Lynn Sylvester

T

Lori Talbot, James Taylor, Timothy Taylor, Gladys Tejada, Manuel Tejada, Reyna Tejada, Lynne Tessimond, Jennifer Theos, Marsha Thibodeau, Ann Thomson, Kimberly Thorne, Brian Thornton, Teti Thornton, Carol Thurlow, Emanuel Tickelis, Erin Tidd, Cone Tinkham, Naoko Tomonaga, Brenda Torres, Margarita Torres, David Torrisi, Robin Tremblay, Matthew Trombly, Elizabeth Troncoso, Maria Trovato

U, V, W, Y, Z

John Urato, Victor Urena, Alexander Uszynski, Lois Valentin, Shirley Vargas, Nicholas Varras, Moraima Velez, Alyssa Walker, Diana Walsh, Keira Waraska, Pamela Wentworth, Laura Werlinger, Andrea Whalen, Daniel Whalen, Beth White, Justin White, Erik Wilson, Kelly Wood, Shirley Woodbury, Deborah Young, Michael Young, Katrina Zalenski, Heidi Zimmerman, Svetlana Zinland, Cheryl Zuccola, George Zygoris.

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Minimize the risk, maximize the fun

◆ Have fun while learning valuable tips for the road

By FRANCES PHANEUF
Staff Reporter

Students who want to save money and ride safely are able to take part in the nationally endorsed Motorcycle Education course on campus. NECC is one of only four sites at which this course is offered.

The program is run by Ironstone Ventures LTD. and is sponsored by the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau. The course is designed with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation curriculum.

Students who successfully complete this course will be issued a motorcycle safety course completion card, which entitles the graduate to a 10 percent insurance discount, reduced rates on new motorcycles and, if the student already has a Massachusetts motorcycle permit, a certificate exempting the student from the Registry of Motor Vehicles road test.

The number one benefit is increased safety awareness.

"This course is based on accident studies," said Joseph Proia, instructor for Ironstone Ventures LTD.

He said the curriculum comes from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation based in California, and 40 states use the program. The curriculum is based on research statistics.

"Accident studies show that 90 percent

of the riders involved in accidents have had no safety training and most accidents occur within the first six months of riding; 45 percent of accidents had alcohol involvement," Proia said.

This course has been run at NECC for the past 10 years. Ironstone Ventures LTD. and Proia have controlled the program over the last five years.

Proia said about 1,400 students have taken the course. It's like driver's education, he said.

"This is an 18-hour program administered in two consecutive weekends," he said. "The Friday nights are classroom training; then on the following day the class is split into two groups morning and afternoon for hands-on instruction."

He said Honda or Suzuki 125 motorcycles are used because they are easy to handle.

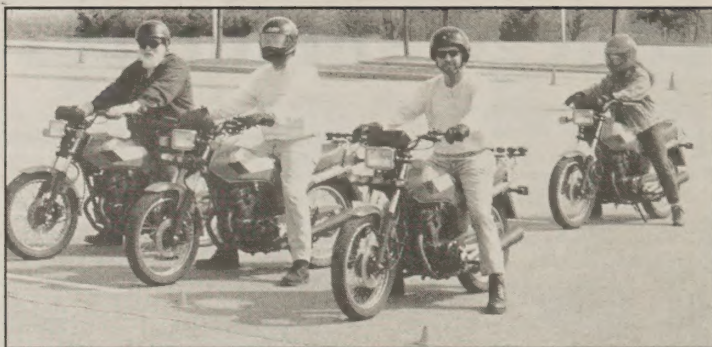
"We have an 85 percent success rate," he said. "These riders go on to obtain motorcycle licenses and ride safely," Proia said.

Motorcycle Rider Education is a non-credit course designed for those with little or no driver experience. There are two areas of concentration:

Classroom discussion, which covers motorcycle controls, preparation, laws and the dangers of impaired riding.

Hands on training, which covers basic motorcycle skills, street strategies, special riding situations, advanced turning and maximum braking skills. The practice sessions teach straight line riding, turning, shifting and swerving.

A knowledge and skills test is given. The course addresses the inherent risks of riding a motorcycle. The student should have the



Todd Hart photo

DOING IT RIGHT: Students get ready for training in the motorcycle safety course.

balance and the ability to ride a bicycle.

"The classes usually run full with 20 or so in a class," said Naomi Shertzer, outreach coordinator. "It's an amazing and wonderful group of people, first time riders of 18 to 19 years of age to grandmas in the program as well as ministers and Hell's Angels. They are there to ride better and safer."

Proia said the biggest safety issue lies in impaired riding.

"We address chemical, emotional and physical impairments," he said. "The obvious drug and alcohol impairments are emphasized. However, riding impairments also include anything else that distracts the rider, such as sickness, anger, being tired or lack of proper gear."

Proia said the rider must have the proper gear because if riders are cold and wet, 100 percent attention is not given to the road.

Betty Bastarache, a former NECC student and a graduate of the MSC course said she enjoyed the program and benefited from it.

"It was a good course," Bastarache said. "It taught you how to skid on purpose and what would happen. We tried things you wouldn't try on your own bike; this was a controlled situation. If the same things

happened while you were riding, you wouldn't get nervous and you would know what to do.

"I get a 10 percent reduction in my insurance rate and because I already had my learner's permit, they gave me a certificate to take to the registry. All I had to do was pay for my license and have my picture taken. It was cool."

Bastarache said she recommended the course to friends. She received many useful tips to make her riding safer.

"I have dumped my bike before ... I took this course because of stupid stuff like sand or not putting down my kickstand, just stupidity on my part, nothing that ever caused any injury," she said. "I haven't ever had a major crash. Maybe it's because of the safety training I received."

The five remaining sessions of the course are now accepting students. These sessions are being held in April, May and June.

For more information or to register, see the Ironstone Ventures LTD. Internet site at www.ironstoneventures.com. Registration and payment forms can be downloaded from the web page.

"I just registered through the company," Bastarache said. "It was as easy as registering for a class run by NECC."

Muscular dystrophy can strike anyone

◆ Lawrence woman was not aware she had the disease

By ROBIN NELSON
Features Editor

Muscular Dystrophy affects over 250,000 Americans. It destroys the voluntary muscles of the victim over a period of years, sometimes decades, leaving the individual feeling weak and depressed.

There are several types of this incurable, possibly fatal disease.

Two years ago, a Lawrence woman, 42, who asked not to be identified, learned she had Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy, a form common in adults between the ages 20-40.

"Things that used to be easy like climbing the stairs now seem to be a chore to do," she said.

While family and friends are there to offer their support, she said it is disturbing to watch herself go from independent to helpless.

This disease can be dangerous since muscles can give out at anytime and there's no pain to warn the person of a problem. Muscle weakness is the only sign a individual with MD will experience.

Over time the muscles affected will become weaker and flatter, making it hard for the individual to get around.

"I used to take a 20 minute walk each day for the exercise. I can remember feeling extremely tired at times. My legs, especially my knees would feel weak. I never thought much of it, though."

Muscular dystrophy usually appears in one part of the body, such as the arms and legs, then gradually develop in other muscles. This disease has been known to spread to involuntary muscles in those who have had it for many years.

The doctor decides whether someone has MD by first observing how the person walks, sits and stands. If MD is suspected, then a blood test, electromyogram or muscle

66

Things that used to be easy like climbing the stairs, now seem to be a chore to do.

LAWRENCE WOMAN

biopsy is performed.

During a muscle biopsy, a small piece of muscle is studied under a microscope to see whether the patient has MD, and if they do, what type.

Therapists work with the doctor to help the individual stay in good physical condition.

"I have a therapist whose wonderful," she said. "It's very easy to become discouraged, but she won't allow me to."

Since 1992, businesses with 25 employees or more are required to have a ramp along side stairs and a doorway big enough for a wheelchair to fit.

"I don't find it hard to get into places that I need to go. I'm not in a wheel chair now, but it gives me comfort to know that if I ever will be, I won't be excluded from everyday activities," she said.

Though this disease is genetic, she doesn't know of anyone in the family that has it.

"My father's side of the family, I know very little about. Maybe someone from his family has it, and the gene was passed on to me," she said.

She speaks of being a strong person and the many obstacles in life she has overcome.

"This is just one more barrier in life," she said. "I can either pity myself or learn to live with it."

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IMPULSE

IN-DEPTH FEATURE MAGAZINE: APRIL 1, 1998



EASY MONEY?

- ✓ Consumer debt is 20 percent of annual income
- ✓ More than a million personal bankruptcies occurred in 1996
- ✓ The average household credit card debt is \$7,000, with \$1,000 in interest paid annually
- ✓ Over 2 billion credit card solicitations are mailed out each year
- ✓ The easiest way to keep finance charges down is to pay the balance on time each month
- ✓ Credit card companies target college students
- ✓ One-third of all credit reports contain serious errors and could impair consumers' credit rating
- ✓ Consolidation loans are not always the right way to pay down bills
- ✓ Counseling agencies offering help paying down debts should be carefully checked out



Drowning in debt

Credit Cards: Easy to Use, Tough to Pay Off

Credit card ju

◆ Companies hunt down students with lure of easy credit in high-interest zoo

By CAMILLE DUCEY
Impulse Editor

Spring break is the time when many college students decide to take that much-needed vacation to reward themselves for all the hard work they've put in over the long winter.

Some students finance a spring fling with the ever popular credit card, adopting the American philosophy of play now, pay later.

What they don't realize is those new charges can double or triple their minimum payments and interest charges, creating a huge financial burden.

Just about anyone who can sign his name can enter the credit card jungle where companies "prey" on consumers, luring them with offers of lower interest rates, cash back and other bait leading to eventual indebtedness.

According to M.M. Tschappat and Scott D. Tschappat, authors of *The Pitfalls of Plastic Credit Cards*, "a \$1,500 spring fling added to an existing \$1,000 credit card balance would bring the total to \$2,500 where the minimum payment would be \$50.

If the interest rate on the card was 20 percent, that would mean that \$41.75 of the \$50 would go toward interest and only \$8.25 would be knocked off the \$2,500 principal amount.

At this speed, it would take 24 years to pay off this balance, and the debtor would be stuck in quicksand always paying the bank for that one trip.

The Tschappats put together their booklet last year to make the public aware of the huge problem associated with credit cards and young adults.

With over 2 billion credit card solicitations mailed out each year, they state "we have been attacked with the same propaganda as Joe Camel turned our youth to cigarettes."

Mailed solicitations are not the only hook for prospective card holders. One needs only buy an NECC notebook or browse the Internet to find advertisements geared toward college students.

Mastercard International offers the "76 MasterCard" with the "earn free gas" hook to attract college students. The notebook includes a Visa "Free-

Answering your questions about

◆ Bankers and financial advisers clash over issues in managing credit card debt

By CAMILLE DUCEY
Impulse Editor

There is much controversy over the causes of rising consumer debt and even more on how to help debtors get back on their feet.

Online NewsHour offered a question and answer forum on managing credit card debt last May. Questions from concerned consumers were answered by independent financial adviser, Dave Ramsey, and the American Bankers Association. The advice given by each can differ considerably.

The following is an excerpt from that forum:
Question: On what basis do banks assess who can get a credit card and for how much?

ABA's response: In most cases, banks use information gathered from the three major credit bureaus to assess what type of credit offer to make to prospective customers. They look at current debt, available credit lines, income and payment history, among other things to determine eligibility for different products.

INACCURATE CREDIT REPORTS

MASSPIRG documents mistakes

By CAMILLE DUCEY
Impulse Editor

With mounting concern among government agencies and financial advisers over the nation's rising credit card debt, reports of serious errors contained in credit reports are creating problems of creditworthiness among debt-free consumers as well.

In a recent news release by the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, it was reported that "despite passage of 1996 federal law, nearly one-third of credit reports still contain serious errors that could cause consumers to be denied credit."

The report was the group's first check on credit report accuracy since the 1996 Congressional changes to the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, designed to improve the accuracy and ease of access to reports.

Credit reports are a critical piece of information which determines whether or not a consumer will be able to obtain a credit card, take out a loan, purchase a house, get a job, rent an apartment or complete other important financial transactions. The investigation revealed errors such as false delinquencies, public records and judgments that belonged to a stranger and credit accounts that did not belong to the consumer.

The reasons errors occur are because of:
Inaccurate reporting of personal demographic information by a bank or other creditor (such as name, address, social security number or birth date) or computer error in linking a consumer's information

Inaccurate reporting of a consumer's account status by banks, department stores and other furnishers

Information mixed together by the credit bureau in files with similar names, especially

grossly negative public records such as tax liens and judgments

Lack of adequate systems for purging obsolete information such as paid off accounts in good standing.

In addition, the report found that it was still difficult to obtain credit reports by consumers who are legally entitled to such information. Consumers making requests to the three bureaus, Experian, Equifax and Trans Union, had to make repeated calls and letters to the agencies, before receiving the reports sometimes as long as two weeks after the initial request.

While MASSPIRG continues to challenge the Federal Trade Commission and state legislatures to comply with the law by fixing mistakes and answering calls, they offer recommendations for consumers to protect themselves from credit report mistakes:

- Inspect your credit report annually
- Dispute inaccurate information immediately

The bureau is required to send you a copy of your rights when it mails your report.

- Take advantage of your right to restrict access to your credit report by removing your name from credit bureau lists that are sold to creditors and insurers for junk marketing mailings.

"If credit bureaus can't always be trusted to get the facts straight, then consumers should be given the tools to protect themselves," said John Hatchm, MassPIRG's coordinator.

MASSPIRG is a non-profit, non-partisan, student funded and directed organization which works on environmental, consumer, good government, hunger and student aid issues.

Its report "Mistakes Do Happen" is available on the Internet at www.pirg.org/consumer/credit/mistakes. They also have an office on the Haverhill campus in room F124 of the Student Center.

dom" card application for students.

The company offers a low introductory rate of 7.6 percent for the first six months of opening the

account and rebates at 76 gas stations.

Other cards promising cash back on purchases, great discounts, no annual fees and free savings

certificates from airlines.

Pitfalls states that "people of credit cards both positively and negatively use them responsibly."

The book has stories of mortgage their future for over by the 'debt truck.' The factual information design budgeting, credit cards, debt advice on where to turn for

"It is our belief that a fundamental course on personal finance for all high school seniors is needed. People on budgeting, credit financial institutions, said

"Young adults will avoid if they are given enough information. Young people accountable, then empower them to use

Students and young adult world of consumer debt.

According to a report on the state of America, in article business writer Marcy Gordon age household credit card debts of more than \$1,000

"Millions of households cost credit card debt," said Consumer Federation's executive conference.

Brobeck said that banks are sible in extending credit, especially income households who are target for solicitations since income markets have been

He cited credit card as the second quarter of 1997, consumers, and lenders in decline, especially during holidays.

The American Bankers Association have expanded their credit people at all income levels pointed out that while credit histories, "more than counts are paid on time."

Thomas Layman, chief said using marketing tactics willingness to extend credit

"It is wrong to equate cards with the actual extent said at a news conference



Donny Mustapha photo

CHARGE NOW, PAY LATER: Credit cards are readily used when one's cash flow is low.

Ramsey's response: Generally banks only want to know if you're breathing to issue a credit card. It is the most aggressively marketed product in our society. The myth in the industry is that everyone's credit and ratios are checked.

If this were true, dogs, dead people and children three and four years old would not be receiving credit card offers. One out of every so many hundred cards will ever be checked. The issue here is to get the card into the consumers hands. They don't care if they use

it responsibly. Cases in point growth in consumer credit rates and the 1.1 million b

The most pitiful cases (students) and senior citizens fixed income like social s

Question: I am 25 years applied for my first credit college when I was 19 and payments. I understand before my credit can be the meantime?

ABA's response: Unless you may not have to wait bills on time for two consider you as an accept loans. If you need help ma local consumer credit co tional telephone number

Ramsey's response: A opinion is that you do no thing you can do for yo wealth building is to stay The only reason you wou to purchase a home. You credit by paying your la time or early between you loan.

Nothing can be remov

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to available on line. must learn the power negative and start to

le who voluntarily present and were run es are coupled with o help people learn ds, smart cards plus o.

should be a basic al finance required perly educate young ds, and loans from schappats. e financial troubles ion. We must teach l responsibility and

re not alone in the

Consumer Federa- y Associated Press d Reuters, the aver- is \$7,000 plus pay- in interest and fees. far too much high- phen Brobeck, the e director, at a news

the most irrespons- lly to low to middle ecome the primary middle and upper- rated.

rs at 882 million in t Brobeck also said xercise more disci- shopping seasons. tion said that banks marketing "to give ess to credit" and rs have a variety of percent of all ac-

omist of Visa USA, a gauge for banks misleading.

uers market credit of credit," Layman every 1,000 solici- ta-

tions mailed, about 20 are responded to.

More than 96 percent of Visa accounts are paid on time, he said. "Visa's 6,000 issuers are doing a good job of extending credit to the creditworthy."

Brobeck said that while most families pay credit card bills, it does not mean they're not under stress.

"What those statistics suggest to me is that the large majority of the population that is heavily burdened with credit card debt is trying very hard to be responsible and making what probably are, in some cases, extreme sacrifices to pay off that debt," he said.

For those who can't pay, bankruptcy has become an increasing reality, raising concern by a government commission studying the problem. The National Bankruptcy Review Commission cited aggressive soliciting by credit card companies as one possible factor in bankruptcy increases.

According to Paul Solman economics correspondent in an article in Online News Hour, the annual rate of consumer debt is growing twice as fast as wages, rising to about 20 percent of annual income in 1996.

Solman also stated that personal bankruptcies were more than one million in 1996 and continued through last year.

For those who are able to stay afloat with their payments, credit cards can be a convenient alternative to carrying cash or issuing checks. But for students who may have a limited income and outstanding student loans, credit cards can be financial suicide.

Brobeck offers some advice for consumers:

- Carry only one or two major credit cards and limit total credit to 20 percent of your annual income
- Try to pay off all credit card balances in full every month or consistently pay down balances until they are gone
- Pay more than the minimum required each month and pay with cash, checks or a debit card rather than credit cards. If you have trouble staying within your budget, seek help from a consumer credit counseling service.

With temptation surrounding consumers everywhere—in home mailboxes, at shopping malls, on television and through computers, it's easy to get caught up in the land of plastic.

It may be time to bring back some old familiar faces like George Washington, Abe Lincoln, Alexander Hamilton, Andrew Jackson and Ulysses S. Grant to put some stability back into your financial future.

credit cards...

the astronomical debt, delinquency cties filed last year. very young (college ng on an extremely

with bad credit. I as a sophomore in ot make consistent o wait seven years t. What can I do in

iled for bankruptcy. ears. If you pay your ve years, banks will sk for most types of your debts, try the ng service. The na- 388-2227.

ts of experience, my any credit. The best nces for long term om consumer debt. your credit clean is three years of good or current bills on redit for a mortgage

n your credit report

before seven years unless the information is inaccurate. Anyone who tells you otherwise has lied and violated the law. Don't pay interest rates from a lender or get a secured card in an effort to "rebuild" your credit. Get on a budget, save money and stay out of debt.

Question: Is it better to take out a loan to pay off credit cards or cut them up or try to pay them off early.

ABA's response: Even if you have just a few cards with relatively low balances, you should look into a consolidation loan. Consolidation loans tend to have lower interest rates than credit cards. If you do get one, cut up your cards, put them in a drawer or rely on your will power. Depending on the situation, you may be better off shopping for a single card with a low interest rate where you can transfer your balances with fewer bills to manage.

Ramsey's response: The problem with taking out a loan to pay off credit cards is that you are treating the symptom. Debt is the symptom, not the problem of mismanagement, overspending and lack of savings. We do not recommend bill consolidations except in extreme circumstances.

We find it is better to cut up your credit cards, close accounts and list your debts smallest to largest. Pay minimum payments on everything except the smallest one and attack that one. When the smallest is gone, attack the next smallest debt.

Which one should I use today?



Donny Mustapha photo

PICK A CARD: Students can easily end up with more credit cards than they can afford to pay off.

Question: At what age should parents permit their children to hold credit cards and to act responsibly in managing debt while they attend college and begin their careers.

ABA's response: The technical answer to the question is 18. That's because under most states' contract law a cardholder agreement can only be enforced with an adult.

Even 18 year olds need some coaching on how to use credit wisely. Once a person goes off to college or starts to live on his own, a credit card can become an important financial tool.

If you are a co-signer on the account, ask the bank to send a duplicate statement so that you can monitor the account and sit down with your child to discuss the terms and how it will get paid.

Also consider a secured card when shopping for an account for a child. Those cards allow customers to make purchases up to the amount that is held in savings at the bank. Or set up a low credit limit.

Ramsey's response: The age a parent should permit their child to get a credit card is 150. (you shouldn't teach children to use them). The most responsible thing to teach your children is to live on less than they make and pay cash for items which causes them to spend less and get better bargains.

You could teach children about the Visa or MasterCard debit card. This is where they spend money and it comes directly out of their checking account. But by far, the most important lesson is to teach good money management.

Question: Ever since my husband and I graduated from college seven years ago, we have been trying to pay off our credit cards. We are nearly done but are left with huge student loans to pay

off. Would it have been wiser to file bankruptcy?

ABA's response: You signed documents that promised you would repay your debts and you are doing that. Bankruptcy wouldn't have been the best answer for you because student loans are not discharged under bankruptcy and bankruptcy stays on your record for at least seven years. That means you would have had trouble getting a mortgage without a co-signer or collateral. You may want to look into a consolidation loan to help manage the number of bills you're paying.

Ramsey's response: Bankruptcy is not a fun process. I know you have struggled through this, but not only have you done the right thing to repay your debt, you have also grown in character and stature as you have done it.

66

... the myth is that everyone's credit is checked ... if this were true, dogs, dead people and children would not receive credit card offers...

Counseling agency helps with credit woes

◆ Program designs realistic payment plan to squash personal debt

By CAMILLE DUCEY
Impulse Editor

As millions of consumers sink deeper into debt with no end in sight, alarming numbers of them file for bankruptcy. Others, looking for less drastic measures, turn to organizations to help put them back on track.

But some businesses that claim to help reduce debt are merely lending institutions, willing to offer new loans to help pay off old ones. Other less reputable businesses offer bogus services.

Personal Credit Counseling is a federally designated nonprofit organization designed to assist anyone having problems with unsecured debt such as credit cards, medical bills, lines of credit, personal loans or store accounts.

Alan Patrick, credit counselor at Personal Credit Counseling agency in Londonderry, N.H., said his agency offers a free, confidential, no-obligation analysis of an applicant's financial profile.

The analysis determines if there is enough income to make payments on a revised budget plan.

Approved consumers are able to create a monthly budget to reach a realistic financial goal of paying down their debt.

Patrick said college students are among the various people who

seek help from his agency.

"Unfortunately, we can't always help young college students who are in debt, because they don't have the income to pay their bills," Patrick said.

Students usually end up turning to their parents for help in paying off bills because bankruptcy is not an attractive alternative, he said. It is also not a protection for secured (protected) debt such as college loans.

"Nobody wants to file for bankruptcy at 18 or 19," he said. "Bankruptcy is really not a good idea, but you have to look at the overall situation. For some people, such as a young single mother who has nothing left to live on after a very tight budget, it may be best. 'But, there are no easy answers,' he said.

Patrick said companies target college students. He said the best advice he can offer students is to "think twice before getting into these situations."

The agency's debt management program is aimed at people who have accumulated a fair amount of unsecured debt and are unable to make monthly payments.

Once consumers fall behind on payments, the minimum payment doubles or even triples, interest charges add up and late charges are added, making it impossible to catch up.

For those consumers who qualify and decide to join the program, one monthly check is sent to the counseling agency who then disburses monthly payments to creditors.

Clients continue to receive

statements from the creditors, enabling them to monitor the debt reduction progress.

Patrick said the average time for consumers to pay down their debt is about four to six years.

"A lot of people are in the program about a year or two and then they manage to pay off the rest either because of a new job or by refinancing a mortgage," he said.

Once the debts are all paid off Patrick said "a kind of religious enlightenment takes over and people learn their lesson."

"They realize it's ridiculous to work and pay all they earn to credit card organizations long after the enjoyment of their purchases are over," he said.

Once enrolled, the agency sets up a budget which includes all the applicants' creditors. While the agency does not contact secured creditors (college loans, utility and insurance companies), those expenses are added into an acceptable budget. Then, one fixed monthly payment is made to the agency who pays each of the creditors in the plan.

This allows the client to keep a reasonably comfortable standard of living with a consistent and exact dollar amount to budget monthly.

It also provides the quickest way to pay down the client's debts. When smaller accounts are paid off, the agency continues to use the extra funds to pay off the remaining debts.

While creditors are not required to write off an entire debt, most will work with the counseling agency to offer relief, usually in



the form of:

- ✓ Stopping late fees and other punitive charges.
- ✓ Reduce or stop interest charges.
- ✓ Lower the required monthly payments, and
- ✓ Re-age accounts to bring them current.

The cost for enrolling is \$50 initially and then \$22 monthly, which the agency says is insignificant when compared to the savings the program provides. The savings are a result of rearranging accounts, which eliminates expensive late fees, and with reduced or stopped interest charges.

The added convenience and savings of drafting only one check each month as opposed to money orders, envelopes, stamps and other miscellaneous expenses greatly exceed the service fee.

For those struggling to make monthly payments, the debt man-



Donny Mustapha photos
NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT: Credit cards are welcome just about everywhere, including NECC's bookstores. High interest charges and rising balances are overwhelming many.

agement program may help avoid missing payments and incurring late charges, interest and increased minimum payments which can threaten a consumer's credit rating.

People with over \$4,000 in debts, paying late fees and getting calls or letters from collectors should seek help.

But Patrick warns consumers to check out help groups.

He said there are scam businesses that won't even talk to a prospective client until money is paid up front. Then they tell the consumer that they "don't qualify" for the program.

Others make a few payments and are never heard from again.

Personal Credit Counseling is available on-line at www.helpwithdebt.com.

Inquiries can be made to (603)-421-2999 or for a recorded message at 1-800-728-5285.

NECC students are charging their way into debt

◆ Students find it easier to 'charge it' than pay off mounting debts

By MARK BEHAN
Opinion Editor

He's been there, done that and doesn't want to go back. Not that there weren't some good times.

After all, when you're 19 with a good job and a new credit card, life can be rather fun.

But the fun stopped. Bills arrived, big credit card bills, bills he had trouble paying.

It's been over 10 years, but student Jose Ferreira remembers those days of credit card debt.

"I had a good job and credit cards. But I was living above my means at 19," Ferreira, electronics technology, said.

He said stress took its toll.

"It was the first time in my life I felt stress physically. It felt terrible, and it was all from owing. I felt nervous all the time and a tingling sensation. I'd receive my paycheck each week and after paying my credit card bill, there'd be little money left," he said.

In a few years Ferreira paid his bills and climbed out of debt. Today, the 29-year-old Lawrence resident pays off all his bills each month and feels good.

"No debts, no stress." Ferreira now has one credit card and uses it sparingly.

"I use it when I need it for certain things in life, like rent-

ing a car, or ordering something by telephone. Besides that, I don't use it. I don't like owing," Ferreira said.

He said the companies target and market their cards toward young people.

"It's a trap for the vulnerable. Bad credit can ruin you for the rest of your life," Ferreira said. "Credit cards are a hidden evil. They can be something great, but then, if you're not careful, bad things will happen."

Bad things also happened to 20-year-old student Jennifer Soucy, liberal arts, after applying for her first credit card.

"The second I turned 18, I applied for a Visa card at Bay Bank," Soucy said.

She was automatically approved and given a \$400 limit. She was off and running to the mall, applying for cards at the mall stores as well.

"It was easy and quick," Soucy said. "Within five minutes I was approved."

Store cards offer 10 percent off purchases for new accounts when they are first opened, Soucy said. The Christmas shopping season just happened to be in full bloom.

"I began charging and charging, buying Christmas presents and clothes," Soucy said.

A month later, bills arrived and Soucy fell into the dreaded trap millions of Americans face today.

"I'd pay just the minimum, but with the high interest rate my balance wasn't going down. It's a vicious cycle," Soucy said.

With nine credit cards, Soucy owed \$3,000. The companies finally cut off her credit. Fortunately, her mother came to her aid.

"My mother has helped me pay

most of my bills. She has all my cards today, and she's put them away until I become more responsible with them," Soucy said.

Soucy now owes \$1,000 and said she's working at paying off her debt.

"It's too easy for teenagers (to get a credit card), because they don't know what they're getting into, until it's too late," Soucy said.

Asked about her future credit card plans, Soucy said, "I'll get a Visa and that's it."

Leslie Hobbs obtained her first credit card at Fashion Bug when she was 18. Now 20, the Lawrence student said she was good about paying off her credit card bills, at first. She soon applied for more cards.

"It became real easy, applying and receiving more cards," Hobbs said.

Her monthly bills came and she'd pay "a little above the minimum."

Today, she has four cards and owes about \$500 on three. She applied for MasterCard and Visa, but was rejected because the amount she owed was too close to the limit.

"You need to have a major credit card to do things, like rent a car or a hotel room. I'm planning to go on a trip, and need a major card," Hobbs said.

In the future, Hobbs said, "I'll pay them off right away."

Student Keyla Reynoso received her first credit card when she was 17, as a co-applicant. She said the first card was easy to obtain, as were the next five.

"Stores want you to have their cards," said Reynoso, 19.

In time she had six cards and

was saddled with a \$900 debt.

"I let myself get too far into debt, paying only a little each month. When you're using the card, you don't really feel or see it, like you would if you were paying cash, until the bill comes."

Barbara Ventura recalls receiving her first credit card from Macy's when she was 18. She said the application process was easy. In five minutes she was approved for fast credit.

With her Macy's card, Ventura had clout when applying for additional cards.

"Once a store sees you have a card from a competing store, and your credit is good, they'll quickly give you a card," said Ventura, a 20-year-old liberal arts major.

She soon had six cards and a mounting debt.

"I started getting too ambitious, applying for more cards and shopping. Then the problems started," Ventura said. "The bills would all come on the same week, which made it even worse."

Ventura then got caught up in the dreaded "vicious cycle" of paying the minimum balance each month.

"The high interest rates make it very difficult to climb out of debt. It gets harder and harder," Ventura said.

With her debt slowly decreasing from a high of \$1,500, Ventura said it's difficult getting out of the red. She works 30 to 35 hours per week and takes a full course load here.

"I've been paying little by little. I tried getting a loan through bill consolidation, but the bank said no because of my poor credit," Ventura said.

She has stopped using credit

cards, and offered her advice to would-be credit card holders.

"Don't start using them, or just have one major credit card for emergencies. Pay them off each month; otherwise, it's horrible," Ventura said.

"The stores want you to have cards because it's good for their business, then you (customer) become selfish and want more things for yourself. The card companies know young people shop. Be careful."

When student Herman Benson got out of the military service 10 years ago, he faced "astronomical bills." He had one credit card to his name.

"I was lucky to have it. I used it out of necessity because I didn't have any money coming in at the time," Benson, engineering science, said.

He ran up a \$7,500 debt before the credit companies stopped him.

With a "good manufacturing job," Benson paid his debt in three years. But the company he worked for left the country shortly afterward.

He soon found himself in credit card trouble again. This time his debts were greater.

"It took me three years to pay off a \$15,000 debt. I was mostly paying off the interest," Benson, 31, said.

Today he has one card, which he uses only in emergencies. Now after 10 years of repairing the damage, he's getting calls from credit card companies recruiting him for cards.

Though his travails were painful, Benson said, "I've definitely learned the value of money."

Earning credit the Disney way

◆ **Walt Disney World is recruiting students soon for a summer course, and perhaps more**

By **RENEE SPRAGUE**
Staff Reporter

“M-I-C. see you real soon, K-E-Y. Why?, because we like YOU!”

This is not a winning verification notice for a vacation to the happiest place on earth, nor is it a promotional “pixie dust” ad for spring break ‘99. This is a well-earned position for students who desire co-op experience, crave the interaction of thousands of international students and want to be part of a Fortune 500 company, all while having a lot of fun in the sun.

NECC will be host to the Walt Disney World College Program recruiters April 3. They will be searching for full-time undergraduates to fill a variety of positions throughout the Walt Disney Resort in Orlando, Fla.

As just one of the 150 colleges across the United States which host this program, NECC and the Walt Disney recruiters will hold interviews and an informational seminar for those wishing to work for the Mouse over the summer. Be sure to whip up your best “Disney look” because it just might be you they want.

Since NECC’s involvement with the program 12 years ago, there have been some changes. Jean Poth, dean of institutional advancement, handed the rising program over to Co-op Education in December 1997.

During those years, Poth said she struggled to change the program to a earned credit study. Finally Poth convinced the college to give credit for the program and handed the torch to Rose Dittmer in career development.

Fifteen students were sent to Disney in September as the first group to earn credit for the program from NECC.

Poth’s knowledge and experience with the Disney program has gained her respect and fame among faculty and cast members throughout Disney.

She said she visits students and the resort several times a year. She is very happy to hand it over to co-op knowing her efforts have paid off.

Now, carrying the program to new heights, Dittmer will host her second recruiting seminar in April.

Students in the program can now choose a 3 or 6 credit co-op involving seminars, speaker forums, and independent study about Disney practices. Walt Disney recruits 5,000 to 7,000 students across the world annually.

As part of their educational experience, they will earn a “Ducktorate” or “Moustar’s” degree in their chosen field of

study. When you return from your experience, Co-op education will help you create a portfolio that will impress your next employer. Since Disney is a Fortune 500 Company, having it on your resume is a step ahead.

“It opens so much opportunity, no matter how different you are” said Arin Gullet, CP Spring ‘95 and broadcasting graduate of Eastern Illinois University. “It made me realize what was out there, and looked great on my resume.”

Gullet is a reporter for WBKP, an ABC (owned by Disney) affiliate out of Calumet, Mich. She is returning to Orlando to pursue a career with Disney and believes her CP experience puts her above other candidates.

Gullett worked as a driver for the shuttle and ferry boats which traveled between the parks and hotels on Bay Lake at the Magic Kingdom. She had never driven a boat in her life, but Disney trained her, and she received a certificate for her boating experience.

Throughout the semester, students live, work and learn the Disney way. A community living experience created specifically for this program breaks communication barriers with students hired from all over the world.

Working in areas of attractions, custodial, food and beverage, lifeguarding and merchandise can land you a position any where through out Disney.

The classes, once a week, give you a “hands-on, behind-the-scenes perspective” of the Walt Disney Company. Don’t let the agony of classes scare you away, as there will be more than enough sun, fun and Disney Magic than you can handle.

Trish Shaffer, CP Summer ‘96 and psychology graduate of Penn State University, returned after her graduation to pursue a career with Disney.

“I was a character at Disney/MGM Studios and was totally affected with the effect I had on millions of people,” Shaffer said. “I am now back in the entertainment department and hope to rise with management.”

“They know me from the program so I am confident that this is a plus. The friends that I have made across the country are the best, and it comes in convenient when I need a place to stay when I travel.”

Some students do not wish to develop a career with Disney, but would like to stay cast members because of the experience and benefits.

“I am still in school but travel down here on my vacations to work a day or two to keep my status,” said Chris Harper, CP Spring ‘95 and student at Mississippi State. “It is amazing the friends I have met all over the world being here.”

“I am a CT [seasonal cast member] in transportation and characters, and I get to visit any of the parks for free and get great discounts. I can’t even begin to tell you how many memories I have from this place.”



When applying for a flight attendant position, “It was the only thing Delta (airlines) wanted to talk about,” said Michael Shea, 27-year-old Florida resident. “I worked for Disney for years and that was what sold them. They knew I had great people skills.”

This opportunity gives students the chance to grow professionally and personally. Students will learn the Disney heritage and history that make it so successful.

They will also make friends from all over the world and experience the magic only possible at Disney. Most of all, they will have the experience that will make employers wide-eyed and offer a competitive edge above other candidates.

“Movement in any position is based on academic experience, but the candidate who has both rises quicker,” Dittmer said. “They look at the portfolio and see that this is a determined and viable candidate.” She said the experience is “very valuable.”

To learn more about the program, contact Dittmer in Co-op or to hear about past student experiences, see Poth. Visit the website at www.careermosaic.com/cm/wdw/wdw1.htm/

Eating well key to happy life

◆ **Just because it taste good doesn't mean it's good for you**

By **GEORGIA KRITIKOS**
Guest Contributor

Food is a nourishment we all need. The prices and quality of food vary on where and how we choose to buy it. The choices we make can affect our pockets as well as our health. You can find food just about anywhere nowadays.

There are 61 restaurants in Haverhill and Bradford alone, including Chinese, Greek, Mexican, Middle Eastern, seafood, Thai and fast food. There are five markets in Haverhill selling fish and meats. Over 10 convenient or mini-markets sell canned food, chips, sandwiches, cereal and other grocery items.

The department of Agriculture reports that out of 11,000 Americans surveyed, 57 percent eat away from home. Of those eating out:

32 percent chose fast food joints.

27 percent selected restaurants.

24 percent consumed food or drink at a grocery or convenience store.

The breadth of restaurant offerings makes it more likely for people to dine out rather than cook at home. There is big business in restaurants and food ser-

vice enterprises. By the year 2000, over 750,000 locations will be offering food service in the US, with sales of over \$350 billion. Over half of all consumer food dollars will be spent eating out.

As we come nearer to the 21st Century, consumers are becoming concerned about nutrition and demand quality and authenticity in the food they eat. Therefore restaurants emphasize ingredients and prepare quality food.

Fast food restaurants usually serve fatty items which clog arteries and leave muscles with little energy. However, today's fast food restaurants offer low fat options.

At McDonald's a McLean Deluxe has only 12 grams of fat. Other items like chicken or fish sandwiches can be ordered without mayonnaise or sauce and that alone can reduce your fat intake by half.

At the salad bar, there are plenty of vegetables, fruits, beans, pasta salads and hearty breads, but take caution of dressings which can add up to 47 grams of fat, each tablespoon containing 12 grams.

In a convenience store, avoid the candy aisle. A small bag of chips can contain 14 grams of fat and only cause your taste buds to grab another bag.

The convenience stores provide more than soda, candy and junk food. White Hen Pantry offers fruits and vegetables which make a great snack.

The Papaya Cafe in Haverhill, offers quality and authenticity in their food. The cafe offers special Thai Cuisine, consisting in sea-

food, rice, noodles, curry appetizers, soups and salads. All meals are freshly cooked to order and upon request can be prepared with more spice.

Their Pad Thai is a Thai noodle dish with shrimp, chicken, egg, ground peanut, bean sprouts and scallions. This dish is absolutely fabulous, rich in taste and mouth watering.

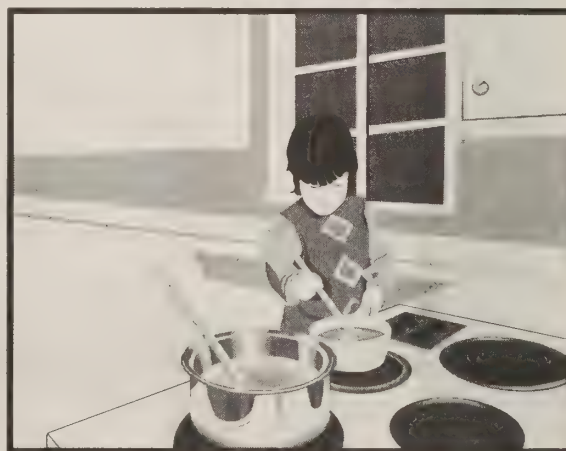
Their combo platter consists of appetizers which include two chicken satays, two dumplings, two rolls, four curry triangles and two shamaies. It's an unbelievable combination of exquisite food and an extraordinary dish of appetizers.

When craving sweets or rich foods prepared with creams and lots of cheese, it is best to dip bread in tons of olive oil with balsamic vinegar. This is best done at the North End of Boston, a small Italian community with street cafes selling the best of sweets and the finest Italian dining.

One of the best restaurants is Vado Pazzo, located on Hanover Street, which serves a great dish, Rissoto Fruite Demare. It is best eaten with a glass of fine wine.

Later there is cafe Graffiti and enjoying a cafe with a homemade torte, absolutely worth every bite. We are humans in need of fat, so don't worry about indulging once in a while.

The consumption of food only takes minutes an hour for days. Eating healthy is important because fatty foods only taste good for a short time, but healthy eating lasts a lifetime.



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You know you're addicted when...

◆ Many Americans spend several hours on the Internet every day

By JODY CAREY
Staff Reporter

Although there is controversy over whether Internet obsession can actually be called an addiction, many mental health professionals take it seriously. There's an extensive list of health professionals specializing in the study and treatment of Internet addiction.

Millions connect to the Internet every day. Professionals say among these individuals, a growing number of them have a hard time finding a healthy balance.

Dr. Maressa Hecht Orzack, Ph.D., founder and coordinator of Computer Addiction Services at McLean Hospital in Belmont, likens inappropriate computer use to recreational drug use, which she has also studied.

Dr. Kimberly Young, assistant psychology professor at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and CEO and founder of the Center for On-Line Addiction, said if you substitute the word 'computer' for 'substance' or 'alcohol,' you'll find Internet obsession fits the classic definition of addiction. This addiction is also similar to gambling or compulsive shopping.

Internet addiction is "an impulse-control disorder which does not involve an intoxicant," Young said. Orzack said we are just seeing the tip of the iceberg.

She said society is becoming more dependent on computers not only for information, but for entertainment and fun.

An independent survey released last December by Reuters, an on-line news source, showed that over half of the participants craved information and almost 50 percent said if information was a recognized drug, they would know addicts.

Three quarters of the people interviewed believe PC's, the Internet and information will become addictive in the future. The survey was based on the responses of 1,000 people in the UK, United States, Ireland, Germany, Singapore and Hong Kong.

The symptoms of computer addiction are psychological and



physical. Among the psychological symptoms are:

- ✓ A sense of well being or euphoria while at the computer
- ✓ Inability to stop the activity
- ✓ Craving more and more time at the computer
- ✓ Neglect of family and friends
- ✓ Feeling empty
- ✓ Depressed or irritable when not at the computer
- ✓ Lying to employers and family about activities and problems with school or work.

Physical symptoms of addiction may be: carpal tunnel syndrome, dry eyes, back aches, eating irregularities, failure to attend to personal hygiene, and sleep disturbances. Orzack said it's not

uncommon for someone to connect to the Internet at 9 p.m. and suddenly discover it's dawn and they're still on-line.

Internet addiction varies from person to person, but there is a common underlying theme. Addicts often use the Internet to escape from reality and seek out a means to fulfill an emotional or psychological need.

Generally, gender influences the type of applications used. Men tend to seek out dominance and sexual fantasy on-line, while women seek out close friendships, romantic partners and anonymous communication in which they're able to hide their appearance.

"There is some indication that people who are depressed, bored, shy or otherwise having problems in their lives are the most likely to get involved in computer/Internet problems" Orzack said. "People such as college students or others who are likely to be isolated often have problems with addiction. Those with such low self-esteem that they don't want to be seen and people that are socially phobic."

The Internet allows them to interact without exposing themselves and provides them with a sense of belonging which is missing in their lives.

While shy people are more likely to become addicted, they aren't the only group. Young said outgoing people enjoy the ability to constantly meet and socialize with new people in cyberspace.

Imaginative people are attracted because it enables them to explore and cultivate their creative, abstract and innovative thoughts.

They enjoy the constant flow of mental stimulation, the ability to

reinvent themselves and the free and immediate exchange of ideas available on the Internet.

Young also said many Internet addicts openly admitted to having an addictive personality who abused prescription medication, suffered from alcoholism, smoked three packs of cigarettes a day or binged on food.

Like any addiction, this one can be treated, but professionals say that first the addict must get past the denial and lying stage. It is for this reason many family members, companies and schools have sought ways to solve this growing problem.

There are a growing number of mental health professionals studying and treating computer addictions. The services offered by these professionals aren't just for the addicted because others are often affected as well.

A number of resource centers provide the latest information on Internet addiction, a list of frequently asked questions and a directory of professionals working in the related field.

Personal counseling is available not only for the addicts, but for their partners and parents as well. These services address how to avoid the related problems and how to deal with those which have already arisen. And there are links to sites on the Internet which are set up as support groups.

There are programs available geared towards corporate and professional institutions. These programs offer workshops and lectures designed to help executives, mental health practitioners and educators. Executives learn how to avoid worker Internet abuse.

Customized workshops train therapists on comprehensive as-

essment and treatment planning. And, educational lectures help academic administrators and faculty learn to avoid the problems of Internet addiction on campus. One method used is setting regulations on how the Internet can be used as well as for how long.

Mental health professionals everywhere are discussing this new addiction. Some of them are even researching and treating this new addiction via the Internet.

"I don't treat this on-line," Orzack said. She said it is a contradiction to treat Internet addiction via the Internet. "Once in a while I may suggest an alarm clock or some other method, but I will not go any further."

Orzack said her e-mail is always full of such requests.

Young supports the use of the Internet for counseling. She provides personal counseling for addicts, friends, family, and parents on her website — Center for On-Line Addiction. The only requirement is that you fill out a secure counseling request form. Young said treatment of Internet addiction is not an "all or nothing" treatment plan.

She said the Internet is a productive tool when used properly, but the addict must first realize the addiction and then be motivated to find a healthy balance between Internet use and other activities.

"The only reason that people will seek help is if they get to a point where their lives are so disrupted by the time or money they are spending on the net that they are in danger of losing a relationship, flunking out of school or losing a job," Orzack said. "Otherwise, they are not going to volunteer to come in."

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Take this Internet addiction self-test

To assess your level of addiction, answer the following questions:

1. How often do you find that you stay on-line longer than you intended?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

2. How often do you neglect household chores to spend more time on-line?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

3. How often do you prefer the excitement of the internet to intimacy with your partner?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

4. How often do you form new relationships with fellow on-line users?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

5. How often do others in your life complain to you about the amount of time you spend on-line?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

6. How often do your grades or school work suffer because of the amount of time you spend on-line?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

7. How often do you check your e-mail before something else that you need to do?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

8. How often does your job performance or productivity suffer because of the Internet?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

9. How often do you become secretive when anyone asks you what you do on-line?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

10. How often do you block out disturbing thoughts about your life with soothing thoughts of the Internet?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

11. How often do you find yourself anticipating when you

will go on-line again?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

12. How often do you fear that life without the Internet would be boring and joyless?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

13. How often do you snap, yell, or act annoyed if someone bothers you while you are on-line?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

14. How often do you lose sleep due to late-night log-ins?

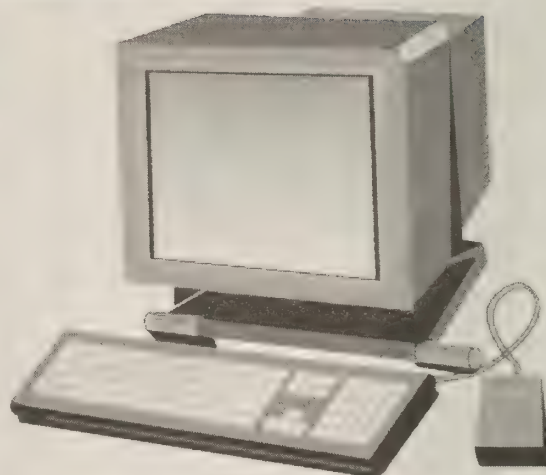
- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

15. How often do you feel preoccupied with the Internet when off-line, or fantasize about being on-line?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

16. How often do you find yourself saying "just a few more line" when on-line?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely



- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

17. How often do you try to cut down the amount of time you spend on-line and fail?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

18. How often do you try to hide how long you've been on-line?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

19. How often do you choose to spend more time on-line over going out with others?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

20. How often do you feel

depressed, moody, or nervous when you are off-line, which goes away once you are back on-line?

- 1=Not at all
- 2=Rarely
- 3=Occasionally
- 4=Often
- 5=Always

Add the numbers you selected for each response to get a final score. The higher the score, the greater your level of addiction and the problems your Internet usage causes. Here's a general scale to help measure your score:

20-39 points: Average on-line user. Surfs the Web a bit too long at times, but has control over your usage.

40-69 points: Experiencing occasional or frequent problems because of the Internet. Consider the full impact.

70-100 points: Usage is causing significant problems. Evaluate the impact of the Internet on your life and address the problems directly caused by your Internet usage.

College affirms right to freedom of inquiry

◆ The Internet is readily available for student research

By JODY CAREY
Staff Reporter

At NECC, students are allowed to view whatever they can find on the World Wide Web, said Gail Stuart, reference librarian.

"However, since we have only a few stations available, we request that students limit their time online to 20 minutes when there is a waiting line," she said.

Stuart said librarians request the students don't use the computers in the library for e-mail or chat rooms because there is a heavy demand to use them for research. She said the computers available in the labs may be used for this purpose.

"We try not to infringe on stu-

dents rights," said Paula Emerson, a member of the computer staff. She said restricting students access can be a sticky situation.

"There can be times when programs that one student accesses infringes on the rights of other students."

Emerson said they do the best they can to monitor the labs, but they are limited in the actions they are able to take.

The question of limiting Internet access involves First Amendment issues. Opinions differ on what is considered decent or indecent.

Emerson said most students are fine and there doesn't seem to be a problem this semester with Internet abuse. However, a couple of semesters ago, the situation was different.

In the past, Emerson said they've had problems with students disregarding the needs or wants of other students. Students were spending prolonged periods

of time on the Internet using MUD programs (interactive multiple user dungeon games) and other non-college related programs.

They had no respect for those students waiting to use the computers for college related projects — which Emerson feels should be

the main function of the computer labs.

Upon start-up, all campus computers are now programmed to display a notice about NECC's computer policies. Emerson credits this notice for the improvement in computer lab etiquette. Raising

students awareness has led to an increase in respect for other students.

Students interested in opening an Internet or e-mail account can apply in room B-305. Failure to follow policies may result in termination of computer privileges.

"Tired of Surfing the WEB?"

"Always playing solitaire?"

"Rearranging your office again?"

"Always asking, is it five o'clock yet?"

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Remembering fondly

Thank you NECC faculty, staff and administration for all the beautiful cards and expressions of sympathy in the loss of my husband, Thomas John Wallace. Words cannot reflect the inner strength I have been able to sustain knowing my friends at NECC have been there for me. In memory of my husband I would like to share this verse with you.

When I must leave you for a little while
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
But start out bravely with a gallant smile
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same
Feed not your loneliness on empty days
But fill each waking hour in useful ways
Reach out your hand in comfort to each other
And never, never be afraid to die
For I am waiting for you in the sky!

Carol Wallace

Wedding of the century



◆ Wedding bells ring as stress levels rise over the top

White dresses, swans and most all people are what make a wedding, but with all of the preparation that comes along with it, it is a wonder why people even bother.

In the next few months, several of my friends will get married, and although this is not an age of fairy tales, they are all excited and anxious to get it over with.

I am not getting married, but I am in the bridal party in a wedding in May, and I am quite excited for that occasion. But there is a downside, a really big downside.

A very dear friend of mine will be married at the end of May, and she has planned her whole life around what her wedding will be like. I am fortunate to be spending the occasion with her and her future husband. It is her mother that I am worried about.

Last week I received a big package in the mail for the wedding. Thinking it was just an invitation and confirmation numbers on my hotel room, I brushed it aside. It wasn't until I heard my father laughing that I learned this was serious business.

A plan book in a clear cover was sent to me, on "How to be a groomsman" with step-by-step instructions on what I would be doing at every moment. I thought that I would learn this at the rehearsal dinner, not three months in advance.

This book, only comparable in its complexity to the New England Patriots play book, has been tormenting me since I opened it. I have enough stress in life right now to be concerned with the likings of stuff such as this. I have nightmares about it.

When a person gets married, it is believed that after the ceremony, people gather to party and celebrate. I don't feel that a recreation of the Hail Mary pass that Doug Flutie threw in 1985 is needed.

Reading through this planner, I came across some very odd things. I've come to find that bad habits, such as biting my nails, will have to stop because my hands "must be kept and groomed."

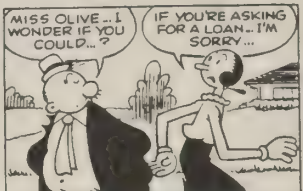
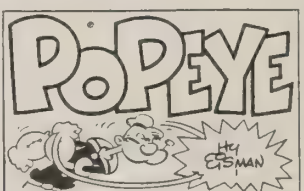
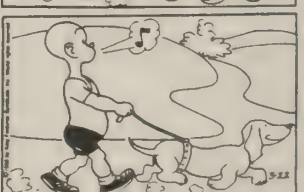
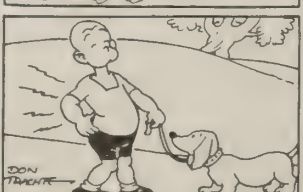
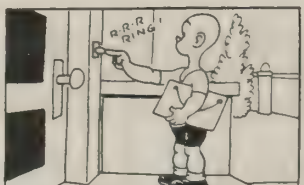
Picture this, a guy getting a manicure for a wedding, I might as well be throwing on a bridesmaid dress. Should I make an appointment to get my hair set, too?

It is not the book I am worried about. It is my friend's mother who is more neurotic than myself. I never thought it possible, but it is true.

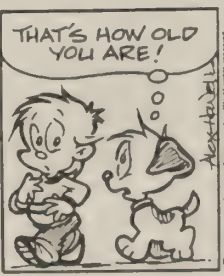
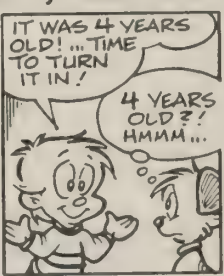
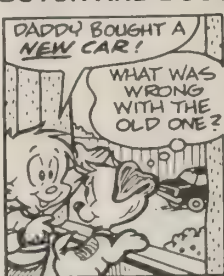
I fear this woman like nothing else. Bring on the Boogeyman, vampires and even tax auditors. Nothing compares to this woman.

Other people in the wedding party feel the same way. As a joke, we've decided to go along with the plan, but as soon as the reception begins, we will keep a very low profile at the bar.

In the meantime, I have a nail appointment to make.



BUTCH AND DOUGIE by ALEX HOWELL



'Titantic' cruises to 11 awards

◆ Acting awards go to Nicholson, Hunt for performances in 'As Good as it Gets'

By CHRIS BLASDEL
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Academy Awards were held recently, and following a three hour and fifteen minute ceremony, James Cameron's epic, "Titanic," walked away the big winner.

The highest grossing movie ever, starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio took home 11 awards total, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Song for "My Heart Will Go On." However, "Titanic" was shut out in the acting categories it was nominated in. Nominees Kate Winslet and Gloria Stuart were nominated for the same role at different ages.

Besides "Titanic," other winners were from such films as "L.A. Confidential," "As Good as it Gets," and "Good Will Hunting."

Best Actor went to Jack Nicholson for his role as an obsessive-compulsive writer in "As Good as it Gets." This was Nicholson's third time gracing the Oscar stage for wins in the same category. He adds this to his 1975 win for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," and 1983 for "Terms of Endearment."

Helen Hunt, won for Best Actress for "As Good as it

Gets." Her role as the waitress who captures the heart of the obsessive-compulsive writer earned her a Golden Globe and Oscar nod. Hunt was both sincere and lovable in this role.

Robin Williams won for Best Supporting Actor for his role in "Good Will Hunting." Robin's played therapist Sean Maguire to Matt Damon in the touching story of a South Boston math genius. William's took a break from his more comedic roles to take on a serious role that he embodied and brought true character to the screen.

The big surprise of the night was Kim Basinger's win in the Best Supporting Actress category for her portrayal as a hooker in the steamy "L.A. Confidential." Basinger was both shocked and moved when her name was called, and could only say that she was "living proof that dreams come true."

Other high points of the evening were Matt Damon and Ben Affleck's win for Best Original Screenplay for "Good Will Hunting." The duo, best friends since childhood, were thankful to everyone for their win and showed that it isn't always the big guys that get noticed.

The 11 awards "Titanic" won tied them for most awards won for one motion picture. In 1959, "Ben-Hur" walked away with 11 awards.

Hollywood is booming with fresh talent and, though veterans of the silver screen walked away as winners, it was nice to see young talent is starting to pick up momentum.



Drop off answers in our student center newsroom today. The first 10 who get the most answers right win a free coffee at Jitters.

Grease is the word...

1. What does Rizzo feel like after she missed a period?
2. Who finds the lucky penny?
3. How did Frenchy get her nickname?
4. What is the car called?
5. Who was Cha Cha DiGergorio?
6. Who played Chiselm (also on Falcon Crest)?
7. How does Rizzo prefer to "bite the weenie?"
8. Complete the line... "No customer would go to you..."
9. What were the principal and secretary's name?
10. What was Pink Lady Marty's last name?

See answers and winner's names in next issue.

Answers to last week's trivia: 1. Molly Ringwald. Judd Nelson. Ally Sheedy. Emilio Estevez and Anthony Michael Hall 2. Falco 3. She was a cocaine addict 4. Seven 5. "My parent's went away for a weeks vacation." 6. The Berlin Wall was torn down 7. "Valley Girl" 8. Martika 9. Electric Youth 10. "Video Killed the Radio Star." No winners

GEORGE by MARK SZORADY



MAMA'S BOYZ by JERRY CRAFT



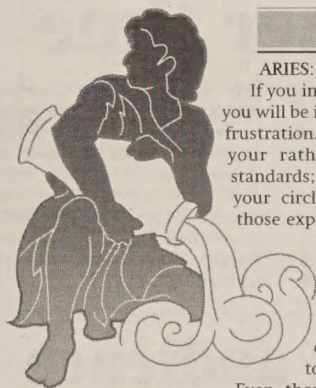
THE SPATS by JEFF PICKERING



OUT ON A LIMB by GARY KOPERVAS



HOROSCOPES BY MISS ANNA



ARIES: (March 21-April 20)
If you insist on perfection, you will be in for considerable frustration. Be willing to relax your rather unreasonable standards; not everyone in your circle will live up to those expectations, no matter how hard they try.

T A U R U S :
(April 21 - May 21)
There are changes that need to be made at home.

Even though your suggestions may not be met with enthusiasm, go ahead anyway. In the long run you'll be glad you pushed. Take time out for yourself; it is essential to your peace of mind.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)

Usual routines may be altered due to unexpected situations that arise. Nip your ego in the bud and behave with courtesy and compassion at work; more will get accomplished this way instead of playing dictator. Act from your heart and not your head with love.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)

A feeling of isolation may overtake you, so make the effort to reach out and touch someone. Relationship issues need to be attended to, so state your needs clearly. If you are feeling stuck at work, hang in there and the solution will appear with little effort at all.

LEO: (July 24 - Aug. 23)

Don't let your ego get the best of you, inducing you to do something really too risky at this point. If you want to advance at work, the time may not be quite right yet. You may experience an awakening in the near future which will affect your attitude.

VIRGO: (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Due to a stunning success in business, or if your love life is improving, you feel like you're sitting on top of the world.

Enjoy it! You don't have to give up anything just because things are finally going your way for a change. Strive for the best.

LIBRA: (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Some negative feelings may arise during the week, from issues about trust and betrayal. There is more than hope, there is a real opportunity for success, but only if you are willing to embrace current changes with an open mind. Be willing to listen to others' ideas.

SCORPIO: (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Continue to insist on quality and honesty in all of your dealings, especially in issues that lie close to your center, the heart. Do remember in all your interactions with others that the absolute truth is quite hard to come by. You have only your personal truth and limited perspective to work with.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Concerning your love life this week, pay attention to sexual attractions and go for someone who is safe and kind. Push yourself to the limit, for you will only kick yourself later if you fail to accomplish that which is within your grasp. Don't let soul searching get out of hand.

CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Do something extravagant this week. Although money is usually associated with this activity, time could be your biggest commodity. Take some time for yourself. Harmony at home will bring you a great deal of satisfaction. Review your investments to see if returns can be better.

AQUARIUS: (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

It's time to talk about your need for independence within your closest relationships. Listen carefully to those words of love and try to read between the lines. There are a number of things which you can't do alone. If help is not on the way, do the best you can and leave the rest for later.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20)

Remove your emotional armor if you really want to get through to someone. Without such a willingness to show your own vulnerability, no one else will feel that they can trust you. The feelings that you have for someone right now are best kept secret. You'll have your chance.

Playing the Bard's ladies

♦ Three actresses pursue love of theater as Top Notch Players while readying for 'Twelfth Night'

By BETH WHITE
Staff Reporter

“Should there be cleavage showing or not?” One might not worry about this particular situation on a regular basis, but it might be a consideration if you're center stage, playing the part of an alluring lady in a Shakespearean play.

Welcome to the world of theater, where appearances and not flubbing your lines is everything. For those who feel the calling of the stage, the Top Notch Players offer the chance to stretch artistic wings and experience what it is like to be part of a theater production.

But it's not all just bright lights, colorful costumes and the applause of the audience at the final curtain.

Rehearsals are typically four nights a week, for two to three hours and the rehearsal period before a show typically spans six to eight weeks. In addition, each member of the production is required to spend time working on the technical aspects, such as stage and set design.

It is a commitment not suited for everyone, but, at least for Cheri Thunstrom, Marie-Helene Renaud and Jane Danahy, theater seems to be a labor of love.

Thunstrom, theater/dance, has been acting since the age of six. The Methuen native was first involved in choir before making her way into the community theater; not such a big surprise that musical theater is her favorite to perform in.

This week's production of “Twelfth Night” is Thunstrom's third time out acting on the Top Notch stage, as the bell tinkling, singing, Feste the clown. Her thoughts on doing Shakespeare?

“I liked it,” Thunstrom said, and confessed that one of the harder parts was keeping the bells on her costume from tinkling when she was off-stage.

She had roles previously in “Rivals” and in one of the student-directed and produced, One Act Plays, “So Tell Me About the Sky,” which was her favorite role.

Besides acting in the productions, she also enjoys set design. Thunstrom plans to earn her associate's degree here and plans to continue pursuing live theater acting.

Renaud didn't always want to be an actress. Her first love was dance and at the age of 3 she took up ballet and jazz. Injuries forced the North Andover native to give up her dreams of dancing.

Instead, she turned her attention to the stage and now says she loves it as much as she once loved dancing.

Renaud, liberal arts/theater, is in her third semester and has been involved in three Top Notch productions. Last semester she played the part of Mrs. Zubritsky in “Fools” and acted in the one act play, “Breaking the Chair.”

As a member of “Twelfth Night,” she plays Viola, the ever loyal servant of Duke Orsino.

She was unable to name a specific favorite role, saying all of them, including high school theater, have been so different in type and each offered a challenge of its own.

Future plans for Renaud, of Haverhill, include transferring to Salem State College, where she will continue studying theater.

Jane Danahy got involved in theater in high school because her friends were going for it, so she decided to join them. She's been acting since.

Danahy, theater, is in her second semester at NECC and has been involved in two Top Notch productions. Last semester she had a part in “Fools,” a play about a village cursed with stupidity.

“I played the part of the most stupid character,” she said, smiling.

This time around in “Twelfth Night” she plays the part of Olivia. She admits to being intimidated at first about tackling Shakespeare.

“I really liked it once I got into it. Shakespeare's characters are very three dimensional,” she said.

Her favorite role to date was the production of “Godspell” done in her senior year of high school.

“I got to play the slut,” she said with that same smile.

Danahy intends to keep with live theater, though she wouldn't be adverse if someone dangled a movie part under her nose. After she graduates from NECC, she hopes to attend either Salem State or Mary Mount, an acting school in Manhattan.

Interested people can see these three talented women along with the rest of their cast mates April 2-4, in the Top Notch Theater in the Shakespearean comedy, “Twelfth Night.” Shows start at 8 p.m. Ticket price for students and senior citizens is \$4; general admission \$5.

Exiling a patriot

◆ New book shows famous banished Russian writer as complex, influential

By DOUG FARMER
News Editor

Alexander Solzhenitsyn was a combination of many different elements: farmer and writer, judge and judged, a man who desired the company of women but not their thoughts, pro-communist and ultimately anti-communist.

This is the picture painted by D.M. Thomas in his new book, "Alexander Solzhenitsyn: A Century In His Life."

The story began well before Solzhenitsyn's birth, with his grandparents who ran businesses and farms in southern Russia so that the family could be well-off. A combination of this and dumb luck protected the young boy when he was born in Kislovodsk in 1918, in the midst of the Russian Revolution.

The boy was able to grow up with values of stability that he emulated in his relatives. To flee the ongoing slaughter around them, the family moved to Rostov, where Alexander began school.

In Rostov, he met his wife Natalya, whom he married in 1940. In later years, he would write both "You are the only one I will ever love" and "Stop this egotistical idea of having children," indicating conflicting visions of her.

He had just graduated from college in Rostov, when the Germans invaded the Soviet Union. He enlisted and was to become a successful lieutenant, who led his men intelligently. During the time of plunder for the Red Army,

BOOK REVIEW

Solzhenitsyn "lectured his troops on the need to keep their discipline and self-control."

It was surprising that at this point in his life, Solzhenitsyn supported the communists. He had idealized Lenin, but did think that Stalin was "messing up the works," as Thomas put it.

A snide comment in a letter to a friend about Stalin cost him his freedom. The comment that "they could stage a coup against Stalin" was only a joke, but it did not matter. He was moved to Kubyanka prison in Moscow, and to other work camps in Siberia and eastern Russia over the next decade.

During this time his relationship with his wife became strained. They were devoted to each other, but years of separation took their toll, and Natalya married another man, although she and Alexander married again following his release in 1956.

Just prior to his release, he had been diagnosed with stomach cancer which caused him intense pain. Following a regimen of radiation treatments, he was cured. His experience with cancer led to the work the Cancer Ward.

Solzhenitsyn began to get works published about this time through the magazine "Novy Mir," like One Day in the Life of Ivan Desanovich, First Circle, and the Gulag Archipelago.

During the 1960s, his work was recognized as so anti-communist that the KGB seized many of his manuscripts, and he was expelled in 1974. He moved to the town Cavendish in Vermont, which was both good and bad, notes Thomas.

It was good in the sense that he had vast volumes and resources at his disposal in libraries. Yet, it was these very resources that weighed

down the fresh prose of his earlier writing. Thomas writes, "Solzhenitsyn's time in Vermont spelled the end for him as a fiction writer."

After 20 years away from home, he finally returned in 1994, when President Boris Yeltsin allowed it. He did not let up on his attacks on the status quo, because Westernization in Russia displeased him almost as much as communist depravity. Unfortunately, he is regarded by many in Russia as an "obselete" literary figure.

Such a varied life would have been demanding for any writer, but Thomas does a good job of capturing Solzhenitsyn's life in the context of Russian history.

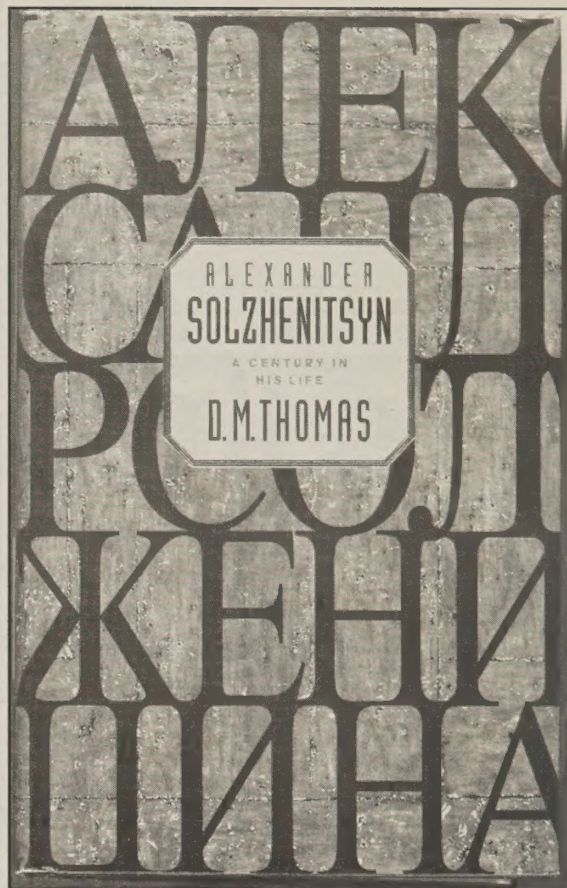
Thomas was not endeared of his subject; he often questions his motives, as when he questions the blind support of Lenin when the destruction of the Revolution was all around him. He shows Solzhenitsyn to be a human being, who often treated his wife Natalya cruelly, and tended to concentrate on writing to the exclusion of his family.

However, Thomas notes, his subject's work did much to teach the world and Russia itself about the terrible injustices present under communism.

The primary flaw of the book is something that the author admits in the introduction, that he had failed to get an interview with Solzhenitsyn, who is, after all, still alive. Thomas simply says that most people were not even allowed interviews by this brooding man.

Thomas also tends to get caught up in geographical description. He spends whole chapters describing towns, such as Rostov, where a few paragraphs might have done the job nicely.

That combined with the extensive description of activity before Solzhenitsyn was even born, and



Camera Press/Globe photo
LIFE AWAY FROM HOME: D.M. Thomas' book chronicles the life of Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn from his upbringing and education to his time in prison to his battle with cancer and to his banishment from the Soviet Union.

the product is a book that is difficult to get into.

In any case, Thomas does an admirable job in creating a very human portrait of the man who has been elevated to the point of myth. This is all the more significant since he had to rely solely on notes and manuscripts, rather than first-hand accounts.

And perhaps more important from the social sense, Thomas shows the country behind the Iron

Curtain as one marked by sharp ideological divisions, not the homogeneous bastion of support for a monstrous system that it was imagined to be in the West.

Finally, Thomas shows that Solzhenitsyn would continue to be a thorn in the side of those who would use politics to justify their greedy, violent behavior, a fitting tribute to a writer that has captured the literary imagination of the 20th century like no other.

Joshua Kane: a man from another time

◆ Storyteller uses horror and the macabre to tell tales of long ago

By FRANCES PHANEUF
Staff Reporter

Joshua Kane paid tribute to the masters of the macabre and brought classic villains to life during the dramatic, one-man performance of "Gothic At Midnight" at NECC, March 25.

Kane is the recipient of the 1997 Performer of the Year award given by the Association for Promotion of Campus Activities. He is a classically trained actor who has created and performed original works for major art centers and festivals as well as colleges. He has studied with Stella Adler, Marcel Marceau and the National Shakespeare Conservatory.

Kane's works include a one-man adaptation of H.G. Wells' "The Time Machine," and "Blood Letters," a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Bram Stoker's "Dracula."

His most recent production, "Gothic at Midnight," has been chosen to be one of the seven theatrical events to be performed at the 1998 Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C.

"It's an art form I grew up on, the spoken word. I have a passion for it and I want to infect my audience with it," said Kane.

He is currently touring the country as an artist for the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. Kane, an arts activist, was recognized as a performer and artist in residence when the CCA designated him a Master Teaching Artist.

He also offers dynamic creativity workshops and provocative lectures on images of women in Gothic horror.

"The first time I heard his voice, I had to go immediately and find out more about him and what it is he does; his voice is intriguing, absolutely," said Dina Brown, coordinator of student activities.

"He holds your attention with his eyes, with his voice, and perhaps with some other power that I choose not to think about right now," says the Fairfield Weekly. Kane said he is more accustomed to performing in a larger venue. But looks forward to this slightly scaled down production. The main difference will be in the staging.

"I prefer smaller audiences, it is important to get to see their eyes," Kane said. "Vocal qualities are of great value. To achieve this one must have a strong ear."

"Diction and articulation are

very important. We live in a reductive period of language. I must be very sure I carry the richness and content to the audience. It is important to do the authors justice. I want to reconnect the audience with authors long dead," he said.

Kane recalls receiving a letter from a student who saw his show. The student had thought Fran-

kenstein and Dracula were just monsters. After the show he paid his library fines, took the books out and made a weekend out of re-examining these works.

"I want my program to touch and transform my audience," Kane said.

"The 'Grand Master of Horror,' Vincent Price had occasion to per-

form near my home in Connecticut," Kane said. "The show was a production by Oscar Wilde. This experience was for me theater at its best. I was 13 years old and I had seen my future. After successfully providing some public relations for the show, I was granted the opportunity to work for the production."

Show mesmerizes audience

◆ Energetic act brings Gothic tales to light

By FRANCES PHANEUF
Staff Reporter

Lovers of Horror have found a new voice in solo theater artist Joshua Kane and his production "Gothic at Midnight," a tribute to the masters of the macabre.

Drawing from the works of literary giants such as Edgar Allen Poe, Charles Dickens and Ambrose Bierce and a rich repertoire of original stories, myth and international folklore, Kane populates the stage with unforgettable characters and an

DRAMA REVIEW

array of vignettes ranging from the inspiring to the horrific, from the whimsical to the bizarre.

The candle is lit and it begins, Kane's dark hair and eyes, his Russian ancestry and sleeked back hair complete with a widow's peak add to the aviance.

Using only his voice, eyes and body as tools, Kane created furnishings, costumes and characters. The audience experienced a vocal journey from France to England then returned back to the South during the Civil War period.

Kane remained energetic and gave completely of himself throughout his two hour marathon of story telling. This performer joked freely with his audi-

ence.

He told of adventures he had while on the road, picked on those who did not show up promptly, shared facts of fears and rats and let the audience in on the tricks of his trade.

Kane's voice resonated through the hall. Kane not only proved to be a wonderful entertainer, but an original and provocative performer.

However, there were stage limitations. The back drop appeared to have been hastily placed in front of a chalk board that was not erased. Add that to the harsh lighting glaring back at the audience and the Gothic mood became hindered.

If it were not for these problems, Kane could claim an evening of theatrical perfection.

Pitchers tune-up on Florida trip

◆ **Knights come back from 15-run loss, pushing Tampa team to the edge**

By TODD HART
Sports Editor

After getting walloped in the first game of their Florida trip, stormy skies stopped NECC's baseball team from pulling off an upset against the junior varsity team from University of Tampa.

Being held to just four hits in a 17-2 blowout, the Knights were back the next day with something to prove, to Tampa and themselves.

The Knights played hard and held a 6-3 lead in the top of the fifth inning when the game was called off because of bad weather.

Outfielder Lenny Carter set the tempo in the first inning with a two-run homerun, scoring infielder Jack Glazebrook, who had been hit by a pitch.

The Knights quieted down at the plate and were held hitless in the second and third innings. Then the bats came back to life.

Mike Gorman started the fourth inning with a single, and then legged out a single by Joe Sabia to score, putting NECC up 3-1.

Jeremy Purington and Kevin Wain followed with singles, the second scoring Sabia.

Chris Twombly ended the scoring with a two-run double to right field, bringing home Wain and

Purington.

NECC pitchers combined to hold Tampa batters to three runs on four hits, quite an improvement from game one.

NECC batters struggled at the plate in the first game, enroute to a 15 run loss and gathering only four hits in the process.

Glazebrook began the game with a double and went 1-for-4 batting in the cleanup spot.

Purington went 1-for-4 with a single driving in a run while Mike Reilly also added a single going 1-for-3 and driving in a run. Brian Angelari went 1-for-3 and also scored a run.

"We really have to learn how to swing the bat," said Coach Mike Caravella. "Having only three hits in the first game really hurt us."

The pitching staff did not fare much better in that game, as NECC used four different hurlers in the loss.

Lenny Carter picked up the loss, pitching two innings, giving up four runs on three hits and striking out three Tampa batters.

Mike Reilly had some better results in relief. Reilly pitched three and a third innings giving up two runs on one hit while striking out six of the 15 batters he faced.

Mike Clements and Wain each pitched one and two thirds innings giving up a combined eleven runs on nine hits.

Despite the rough start, Caravella has seen a few positives so far.

One thing is the development of the pitching staff. The trip to Florida gave the coaches a good

look at their progress.

"I think we really have an idea of where the pitching staff is at right now," he said.

Another positive is the way the team was able to bounce back in the second game.

"There really was a big difference between the first and second game in terms of leadership," he said.

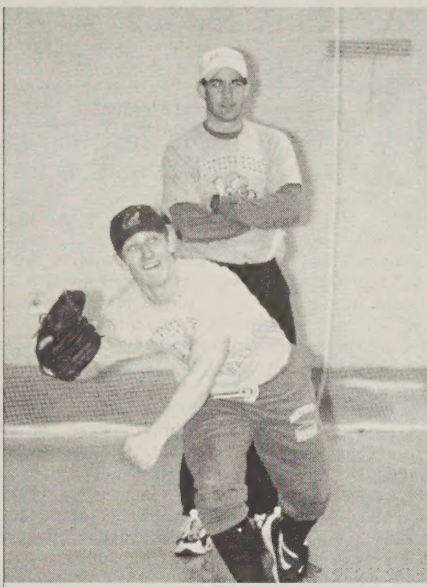
Caravella also said the team is starting to gel and play as a unit.

"This trip really helped to bring us closer together as a team," he said.

Two weaknesses Caravella has noticed, though, have been the team's inability to get ahead of batters and to defend against the walk. The team also had three errors in both of the first two games.

Caravella believes that part of the problem is that the team has not been able to practice outside at all.

"We really need to get out-



Mike LaBella photo

GOOD START: Lenny Carter warms up to perform well both at the plate and on the mound.

side," he said. "There is no substitute for being out."

NECC was the only Division III junior college team playing down in Florida. Caravella said the two games against Tampa, ranked seventh in the country, and Saturday's game against Tufts University, will get the team prepared for the rest of the schedule.

"We played against a very strong school," he said. "I think how fast we mature will dictate how good we will be this season."

Clopton: more than a ball player

◆ **Student/athlete wears several different hats during the week**

By TODD HART
Sports Editor

When outfielder Aaron Clopton is not playing for the NECC Knights baseball team, he is busy with a group he formed for third generation Holocaust survivors, as a senior representative for a telecommunications company and keeping up with his studies.

When college is finished, Clopton said he would like to work with middle and high school age students.

"I would like to be working with teenagers," he said. "I would also like to see my group go somewhere and become its own thing."

The group that he speaks about is a group of third generation Holocaust survivors, an offshoot of a group of second generation survi-

vors. Clopton's group meets occasionally and shares stories as not only a learning experience, but also a healing process as well.

Although Clopton admits that he may not be as emotionally affected as a first or second generation survivor, the group is important because it gives them a forum to discuss the future.

The group was formed after Clopton began attending meetings with his mother and decided he wanted to do something as well.

"I called someone I knew from a group called one by one and asked her if she thought it was a good idea and she said give it a shot," he said.

Clopton, a Newburyport High graduate, started playing baseball after he saw flyers and attended the meetings. This fall season was the first time he had played baseball at this level.

"I never played in high school," he said. "The last time I played organized was when I played little league."

Clopton admits he is more adept at the game of soccer than any other sport. During his junior and senior years, he gained many awards including all-star and all league in the Cape Ann League.

"My biggest hero was Pele," he said. "I have all the instructional videos and posters all over my room. He introduced so many new things to the sport."

While Clopton is still trying to feel his way around the baseball field, he speaks positively about the team's progress.

"I think we are coming along great," he said. "Even though we lost 17-2 in the first game and it was demoralizing, we bounced right back in the second game. Even though it doesn't count in the standings, mentally it is good

for the team."

Clopton believes the biggest thing he brings to the team is his focus on education. While many players have their focus on baseball, Clopton tries to also help them along in the classroom.

"He is a really good kid," teammate Kevin Wain said. "He always helps me with my sociology if I need it."

Clopton said the majority of his life revolves around his education. He hopes to transfer to Germany and attend the University of Munich in the fall. Keeping up his grades is his main focus right now.

"A professor at the university would like me to help him on an independent study so right now I am just trying to keep up my grades so I have a chance of getting in," he said.

He is enrolled as a social psychology major, but plans to concentrate on a degree in social work.

Clopton said after he obtains his degree he would like to work with teenagers, since he has worked as a care counselor for six years.

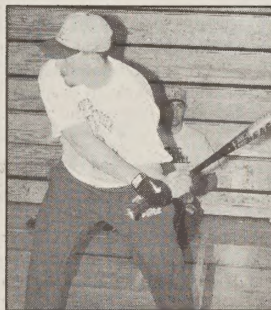
Clopton is also self-employed, which gives him the opportunity to create his own hours to help him focus on his studies.

He is also a senior representative for a company called Excel Communications based out of Texas. His involvement in the company was a gradual process.

"My parents were involved in the company and then they got me involved," he said.

Coach Mike Caravella said he has seen Clopton improve since the beginning of the season, both in his attitude and on the field.

"Aaron really is a great kid," he said. "He has done everything I could hope for. He has improved a lot since the fall, came into the



Todd Hart photo

TAKING CUTS: Aaron Clopton works on his bat speed.

season in shape, and he has really been helping out a lot with the team."

Wain agreed, describing Clopton as "vocal, upbeat and always encouraging his teammates."

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TODD HART

10 great sports films to rent

Just when you thought spring was upon us and it was time to break out the bat and glove, *Old Man Winter* surprised us again.

Well, if you find yourself sitting around the house with dreams of getting out onto the ball field, the golf course or the neighborhood basketball court, go out and rent one of my top 10 sports movies to get you through the day.

My personal favorite is the 1986 film "Hoosiers" about a small town high school basketball team and its path to the state finals in Indiana, where basketball is king. It's must-see for any basketball fan.

In "The Natural" Robert Redford plays Roy Hobbs, an unknown middle-aged baseball player, who comes out of nowhere to lead a losing 1920s baseball team to the top of the league with the help of a bat cut from a lightning struck tree.

"Caddyshack." Who doesn't like this movie? It has an all-star cast that includes Chevy Chase, Rodney Dangerfield and Bill Murray as the gopher hunting groundskeeper Carl Spackler. This story about a caddy who will do anything to get money for college is one of the funniest movies of all time.

"The Bad News Bears" is the story of a rag tag group of little leaguers with very little talent until a rebellious outfielder and a dominant girl pitcher join the team and lead them to respectability. This original and the sequel, "Bad News Bears Breaking Training," are a must see.

Fans of Sylvester Stallone or boxing will love the "Rocky" series. These movies include legendary matches against such superstars as Hulk Hogan and Mr. T. They also include classic dialogue like "Yo, Adrian" and "Just one more round Rock 'cause Mickey loves ya."

"The Program" provides a good look at the seamy underbelly of college athletics including steroid use, cheating on academics and alcoholism among athletes.

"Rudy" is an entertaining and inspirational look at the triumphs and struggles of an undersized football player trying to make the squad at Notre Dame.

"Major League" is a laugh-a-minute look at the progress of a Cleveland Indians team from bumbling idiots to the top of the American League.

"Field of Dreams" stars Kevin Costner as a small town farmer, who after hearing a voice urging him to "build it and they will come," plows his fields and builds a baseball diamond. Deceased legendary baseball players like Shoeless Joe Jackson and Ty Cobb use this field to continue their playing days in the afterlife. It also allows Costner's character to take care of some unfinished business with his father.

And finally, "Days of Thunder" is the story of fictional race car driver Cole Trickle, played by Tom Cruise, and the ups and downs, crashes and victories of his first season in the driver's seat.

So go to your nearest video store, pick up one or all of these movies, sit back and enjoy.

66

"He has done everything I could hope for...came into the season in shape and he has really been helping out a lot with the team."

MIKE CARAVELLA

Recruiting problems

◆ Coaches have number of good prospects despite the difficulties they face

By TODD HART
Sports Editor

Despite hours of scouting games and players and many informational packets sent out to players, NECC basketball coaches are often finding it difficult to recruit players.

While the coaches admit it is becoming easier to recruit area players, due in part to efforts from the admissions and athletic departments, it is still a sometimes frustrating process.

Women's coach Artie Gribbons, who is in the midst of his first full year of recruiting at NECC, has noticed one major problem with getting area high school players to attend the college. He finds that a lot of student athletes want to get away from home.

"Even the ones that do stay close to home have to work to pay for college and really do not know what they want to do," he said.

Men's coach Richard Steele has found basically three problem areas he has faced.

Most players believe their talents demand that they play at a higher level college.

"These kids believe they should be playing at a Div. I or II school," he said.

Steele finds that many of these athletes will go to a college where they do not belong right out of high school and will wind up sitting on the bench for one or two seasons.

He says it is difficult to make them understand that NECC is a beneficial stepping stone.

Another problem is that some area coaches are more interested in getting their players into four-year colleges because it makes their programs look better.

"They find it difficult to understand that may not be what is best for the player," he said.

Also, NECC has had a bad reputation among area coaches, Steele said. Many of them do not see what the college has to offer both athletically and academically. Some area high school guidance counselors have no information about NECC, according to Steele.

The fact that NECC has no student/athlete scholarships to offer these athletes is also a problem. Newbury College allots \$38,000 a year for scholarships. Bunker Hill and Hesser College are also schools that are grabbing a lot of the recruits.

"I lost a couple of kids to Bunker Hill and



Todd Hart photo

RECRUITS NEEDED: Local prospects who have the experience and talent of a player like Cassie Ellis, are difficult to draw to NECC, coach Artie Gribbons said.

Hesser last year," Steele said.

Steele has a number of ideas that he has been trying to implement to alleviate some of the problems.

Steele would like to spend one day a week at the Lawrence campus talking to any students or athletes to make sure that they get any assistance or help that they need.

Also, many new ideas are in the process of being introduced by Steele and the athletic department that should ease some of the difficulties.

Steele also sees a very concerted effort by the admissions department to change the college's image as a very positive step.

"The college has really been helpful a lot this year and have made it easier to recruit," he said.

Some area coaches have different opinions when it comes to sending their student athletes to NECC.

Lawrence High School boy's coach Dave Giribaldi, who takes a very active role in helping his players choose a college, would rather see his players get away from home.

"NECC is always an option, but I would rather have my kids get away from their surroundings; it is not because NECC is not a fine college," he said.

Tony Carnevale, head boy's coach at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, N.H., has his players list the colleges they would like to attend, asks them if they want to continue to play and if they think they can.

He believes that NECC can offer a student a second chance if they may not have done as well academically or if they get themselves into trouble.

"No doubt about it. I have a couple of



Todd Hart photo
WORKING: Men's coach Richard Steele has had busy recruiting season so far.

kids right now that should go there," he said.

John Barry, the girl's head coach at Pinkerton, who has seen one of the school's better players, Jelani Philips, attend NECC, takes it year by year.

"I have a strong team academically this year, but in the past I have had players attend there and would definitely recommend it in the future because it is a good school and is so close ...," he said.

Despite the difficulties, both coaches have had productive recruiting seasons so far with strong interest from a number of top recruits.

Gribbons has a few good prospects including a top player from Tewksbury, Jennifer Gaipo, but understands that it is still early and figures he won't have a lot of definites for another month or so.

"This is still the time of year when students are searching out different options," he said.

On the other side, Steele has had a good spring, contacting with about 27 players from area high schools.

A couple of top prospects have shown strong interest in playing for the Knights next season, said Steele.

Bobby Hartwell from Bedford, who brought his team into the quarter finals in Division 3, has already been accepted.

Harry Budd, a four year starter for Triton Academy, is in the process of submitting an application.

And Joe Marshall, who helped lead Haverhill High School deep into the Division 1 championship tourney, is also in the process of applying.

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